WE'RE SHORT-STAFFED!
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& Typesetters
SOME-
BODY,
HELP!
wahh
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SUMMITED BY MARIS

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Proof-read by : Cyber_3
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QC by : Maris

Real Clothes

by Makimura Saforu

槇村さとる
MAKIMURA SATORU

Because I entered my working life earlier than most people, I knew nothing of what is called "fashion."

I used to think, "Clothes are what the main character wears." When the main character arrived on the page, I was checking if the clothes look good on them. Did they not look good? It was a relentless occupational hazard.

I realized, "Clothes are what you yourself wear!?" when I was in my mid-30s! Honest to God.

YOU
For the latest information check out
http://you.shueisha.co.jp

QC QUEEN'S COMICS YOU

Real Clothes 5

Makimura Satoru

槇村さとる

リアル・クローズ

YOU QUEEN'S COMICS
Real Clothes 5
槇村さとる

集英社

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雑誌 44544－96

Love gets in the way of your career.
Love boosts your career.
Where does a complicated entanglement of love and career lead...!?

Here comes the split from Tatsuya, who she once thought of marrying. Filled with a huge sense of loss, all Kinue does is drift through her days without him. Loneliness starts to upset the balance of Kinue's mind and body. Unable to repress her desire to see him, she suddenly goes to Tatsuya's house one night, only to see what!?

Real Clothes 5
Makimura Satoru

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Do Da Dancin'! Ballet Essence

Cover Art / Makimura Satoru
Cover Design / Shinkami Hiroshi

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Makimura Satoru

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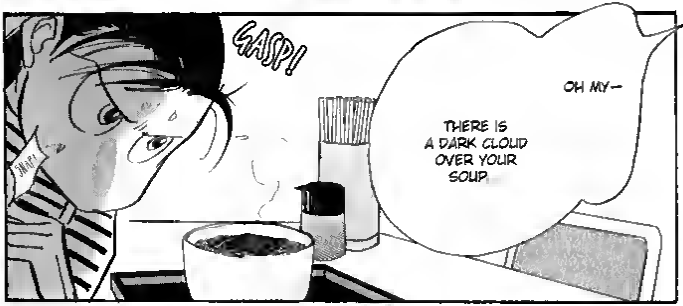
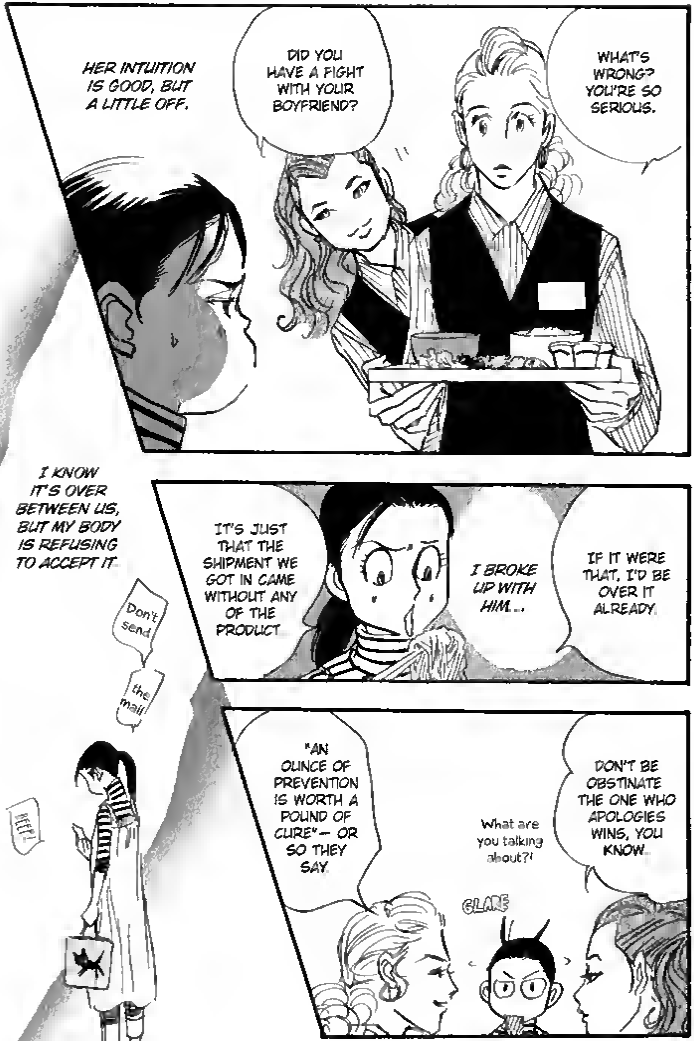
Real Clothes

Chapter 30

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

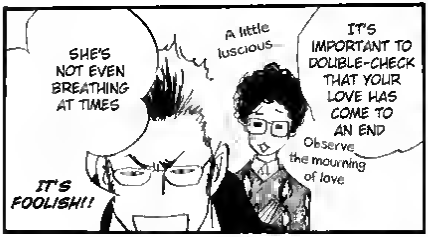
Send message?
BIP!
I want to meet.
BEEP!
BIP-BIP
BEEP
BIP-
BIP-
BIP
BEEP


GASP!
OH MY—
THERE IS A DARK CLOUD OVER YOUR SOUP.


HER INTUITION IS GOOD, BUT A LITTLE OFF.
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SO SERIOUS.
I KNOW IT'S OVER BETWEEN US, BUT MY BODY IS REFUSING TO ACCEPT IT.
IT'S JUST THAT THE SHIPMENT WE GOT IN CAME WITHOUT ANY OF THE PRODUCT.
I BROKE UP WITH HIM...
IF IT WERE THAT, I'D BE OVER IT ALREADY.
Don't send
the mail!
"AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE"— OR SO THEY SAY.
What are you talking about?!
GLARE
DON'T BE OBSTINATE THE ONE WHO APOLOGIES WINS, YOU KNOW.

YOU SHOULD GO FOR WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, KINUE.
ONE RIGHT AFTER THE OTHER... THE MEMORIES EMERGE.
MUMBLE...
THEY WERE ALL LIES.
SO THEN WE'LL GO TO THE MANUFACTURER TAKE CARE OF THIS, PLEASE.
EH?
EH?
SURE.

Real Clothes 5


SHE'S NOT EVEN BREATHING AT TIMES
IT'S FOOLISH!!
A little luscious...
IT'S IMPORTANT TO DOUBLE-CHECK THAT YOUR LOVE HAS COME TO AN END
Observe the mourning of love

I'M GOING OUT ONTO THE SALES FLOOR
DOES ANYONE HAVE ANYTHING FOR ME?
This, please!!
HOW DEPRESSING. I CAN'T STAND HOW GLOOMY SHE IS.

I will never do the love thing.
There's no such thing as a love that ISN'T foolish.
Love isn't something you do." It's something you "fall into"
By Nako ♡

OTSU-KARE—
AMANO-SAN, IF YOU'VE GOT SOME TIME, WHY DON'T YOU GO LIVEN UP THE ITSUKI COMMERCIAL GROUP PARTY?
OH— SORRY, I ALREADY HAVE PLANS
OK~!
Section chief!
EVERYDAY, I DO NOTHING BUT LIE
I FEEL THAT IF I KEEP LYING, MY HEART IS GOING TO BECOME EMPTIER AND EMPTIER.
RIGHT? ISN'T IT DELICIOUS?!
YUP! I'M GOING TO TRY AND MAKE IT NEXT TIME.
Ristorante MAGGIO

SQUEAK!
I SHOULD JUST ASK HIM ABOUT WHAT TO DO WITH HIS THINGS, AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
IF, BY CHANCE, WE WERE TO MEET, WHAT WOULD I DO?
IRASSHAI-MASE!
BUONA SERA!
IS HE...?
HE'S COMING LATER
LIH.
TABLE FOR ONE TODAY?
IRASSHAI-MASE!
NOT HERE, OF COURSE

(T/N Zouni is a soup usually made at New Year's.)

I MADE SOME ZOUNI* WITHOUT THE MUSHROOMS FOR HIM.

HE WAITED FOR IT, LOOKING AT ME LIKE IT WAS PERFECTLY NATURAL FOR ME TO COOK, SO I DIDN'T GET ANGRY AT HIM.

OCCASIONALLY, I'D COOK AND THEN LOOK AT HIM LIKE, "HOW ABOUT THAT?" — AND THEN HE'D SAY IN A LOUD VOICE, "AMMMMMAZING! THANK YOU~♡"

HE HATED RAW TOMATOES AND SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS.

TODAY'S HORS D'OEUVRES IS A SMALL CAPELLINI.

WE ATE DINNER TOGETHER TIME AFTER TIME AFTER TIME.

I NEVER CRITICIZED HIM EVEN ONCE FOR CANCELLING OUR DATES AT THE LAST SECOND.

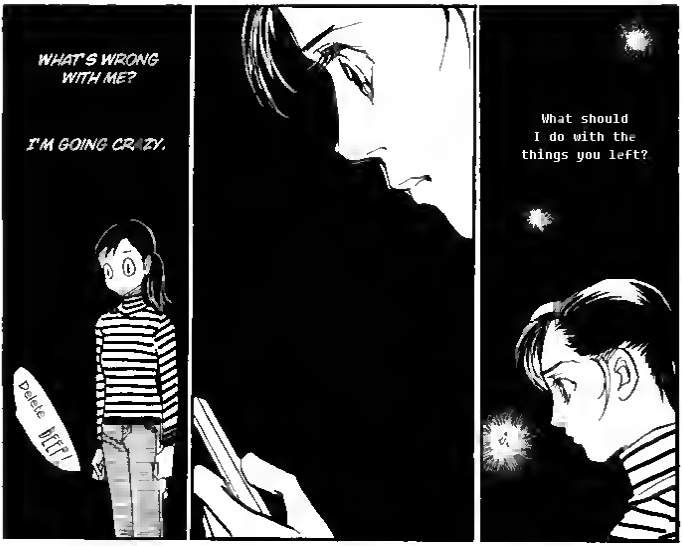
I ALWAYS ARRANGED THINGS WITH TATSUYA WITHIN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES,

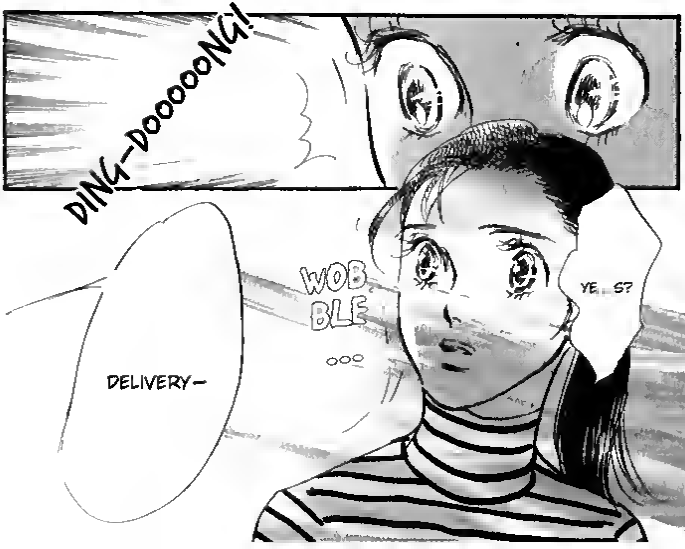
I GAVE HIM MY TIME AND MY PASSION

BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT IT WAS UNFAIR.
I NEVER TOLD HIM TO APPRECIATE IT.
IRASSHAI-MASE.
GASP!

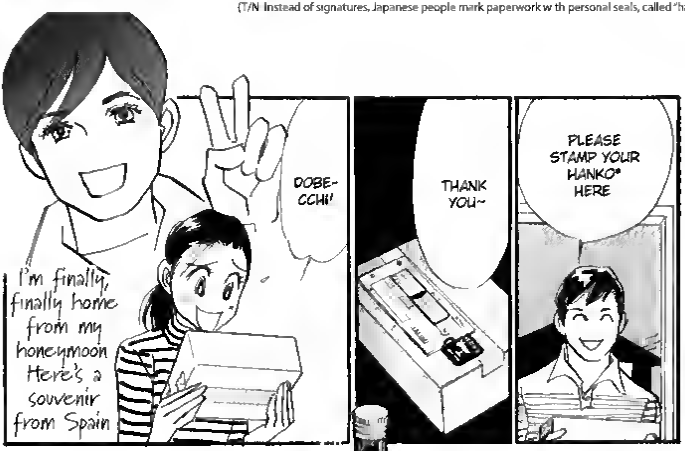
B-BMP
I RESERVED UNDER "TSUJI-MOTO."
B-BMP
COME ON IN
B-BMP
B-BMP
EXCUSE ME I GUESS IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK OUT— TODAY
I'M BEING AN IDIOT.
DRIP!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NO WAY!
THE THINGS I WE LOST
ARE OVERFLOWING INSIDE OF ME.


WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
I'M GOING CRAZY.
Delete NOW!
What should I do with the things you left?

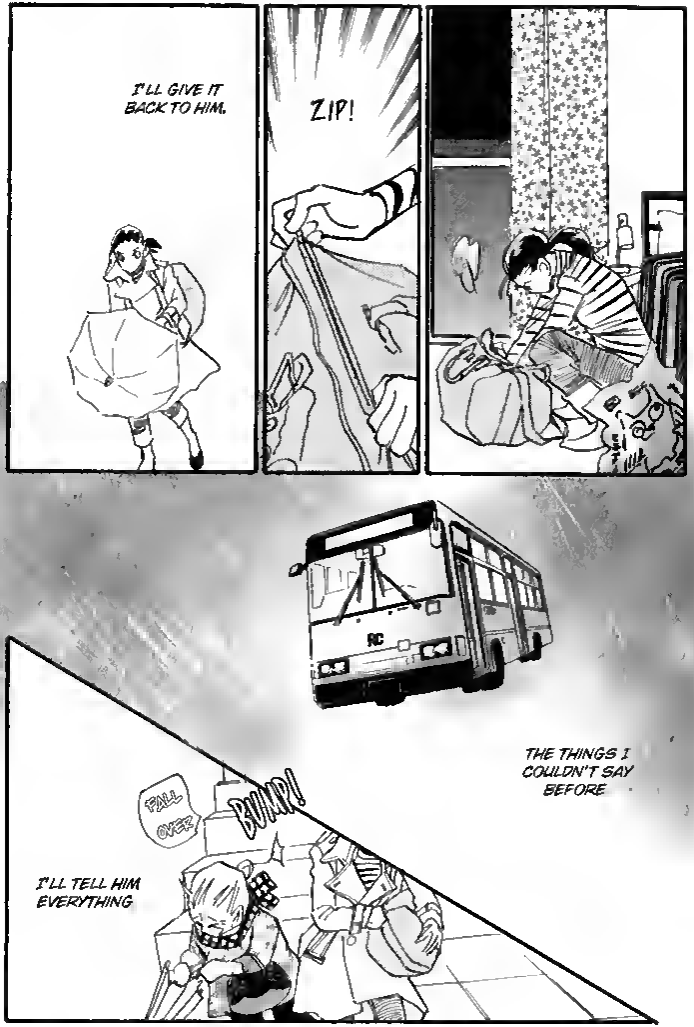

DING-DOOOONG!
WOB BLE
...
YE...S?
DELIVERY-

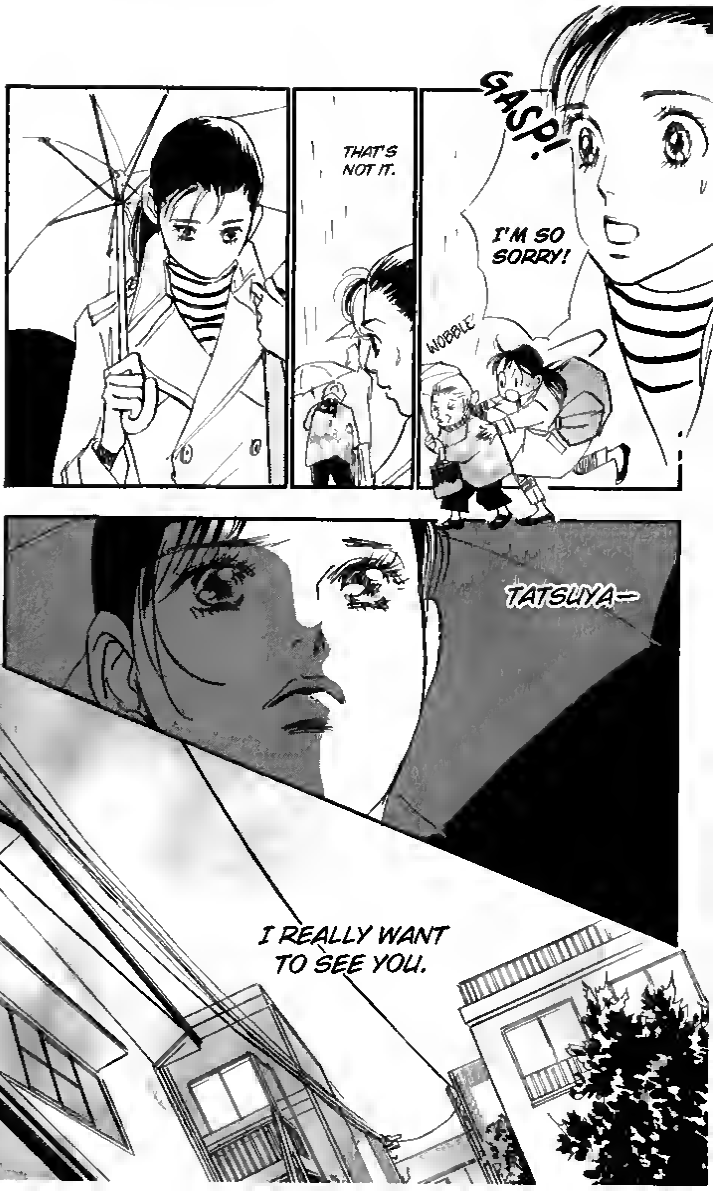
[T/N: Instead of signatures, Japanese people mark paperwork w th personal seals, called "hanko"]



If it's true, congratulations!
I've fallen behind on things, but I'm sending the pictures from my ceremony to you now
I've heard whispers on the wind, that you and Tatsuya might be about to go for it—!?

HE ALWAYS BLABBED ON ABOUT HIS OWN OPINIONS—
WHY DON'T YOU JUST HAVE BOTH YOUR JOB AND A MARRIAGE?
I'LL DO BOTH.
1992


I'LL GIVE IT BACK TO HIM.
ZIP!
RC
THE THINGS I COULDN'T SAY BEFORE
I'LL TELL HIM EVERYTHING
FALL OVER
BOUP!


GASP!
I'M SO SORRY!
WOBBLE
THAT'S NOT IT.
TATSUYA—
I REALLY WANT TO SEE YOU.

IT FEELS LIKE I'M GOING TO BURST INTO LAUGHTER.
Thank God!
He's not in
I'M GETTING BEYOND HELP.
DING
203
DOOONG
203
AMAUC

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE~ THAT YOU CAN'T EAT TOMATOES~
JUMP!
I CAN'T HELP IT— I WAS TRAUMATIZED AND SHIITAKE, TOO
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
THAT'S HORRIBLE —!!
DEAD END!
WHO'S THAT?

◆End of Chapter 30◆

WE'RE SHORT-STAFFED!
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& Typesetters
SOME-
BODY,
HELP!
wahh
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Real Clothes

by Nakamura Satoru

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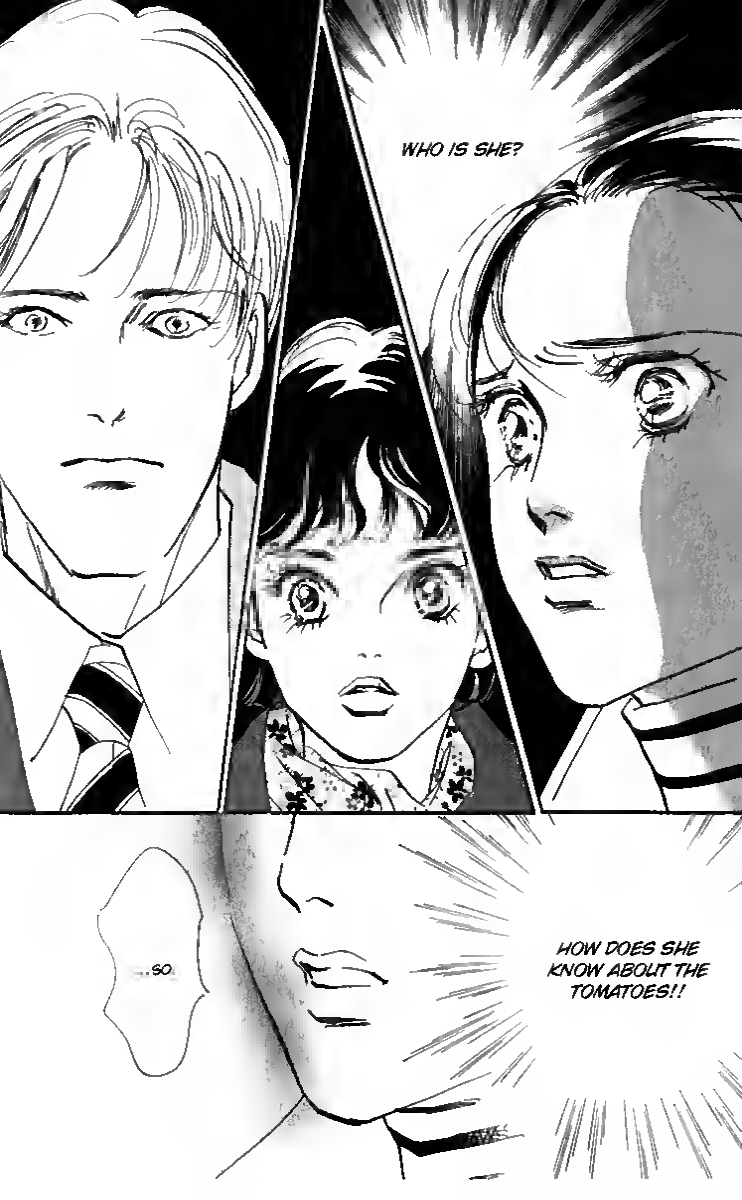
QC by : Maris

WaytoQ.com

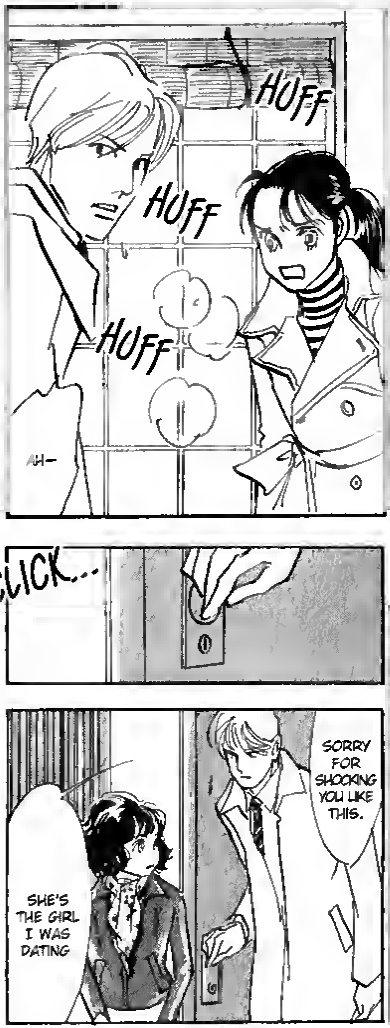
Real Clothes

Chapter 31


WHO IS SHE?
...SO
HOW DOES SHE KNOW ABOUT THE TOMATOES!!

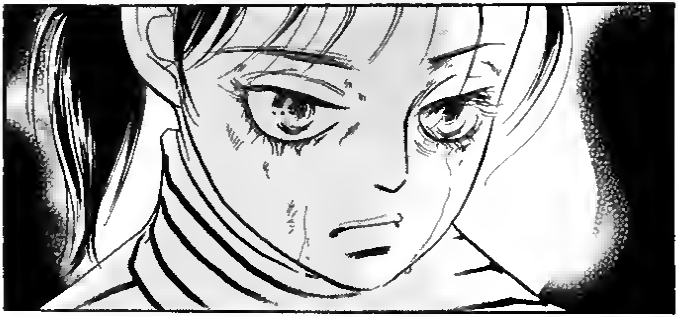
OR SHOULD I SAY IT'S BEEN THIS FOR SOME TIME?
WHO THE FUCK IS THIS GIRL!!
KINU...
SO I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S LOST SLEEP OVER ALL THIS.
IT'S ALREADY... COME TO THIS.
FLARE!
YOU'RE BEING RUDE TO HER. DON'T SHOUT, PLEASE.

SO IT'S ALL MY FAULT? EVERYTHING? ALL OF IT, IT'S ME!?
DON'T PLAY ME FOR A FOOL! IF THERE WAS ANOTHER GIRL, YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SO!
WHAT'S WITH THE "I THOUGHT YOU'D PICK YOUR JOB" CRAP?
WHOA!
GO INSIDE!
YOU COWARD!
YOU WERE PRETENDING TO GIVE ME A CHOICE IN EVERYTHING!
AND THEN WHEN MY ANSWER WASN'T WHAT YOU'D THOUGHT IT'D BE, YOU GOT PISSED OFF!


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
AH-
CLICK...
SORRY FOR SHOCKING YOU LIKE THIS.
SHE'S THE GIRL I WAS DATING
I'M GOING HOME.

CAN I SAY SOMETHING?
IT'S CHARACTERISTIC OF YOU TO BE KIND, WHETHER IT'S FOR BETTER OR WORSE.
TONIGHT, DON'T SHOW THAT.
MAKE SURE SHE HATES YOU

SEE YA
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR MOVING DAY WITH TEC-CHAN AND THE OTHERS AT THE OTHER APARTMENT
GOOD NIGHT.



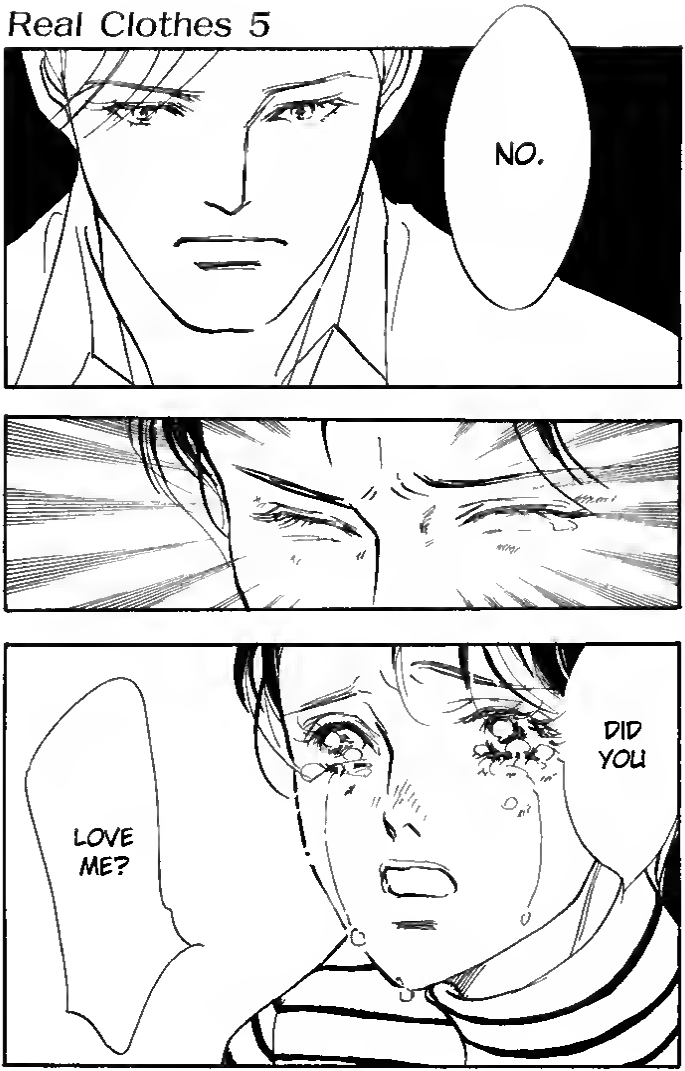
BETTER?

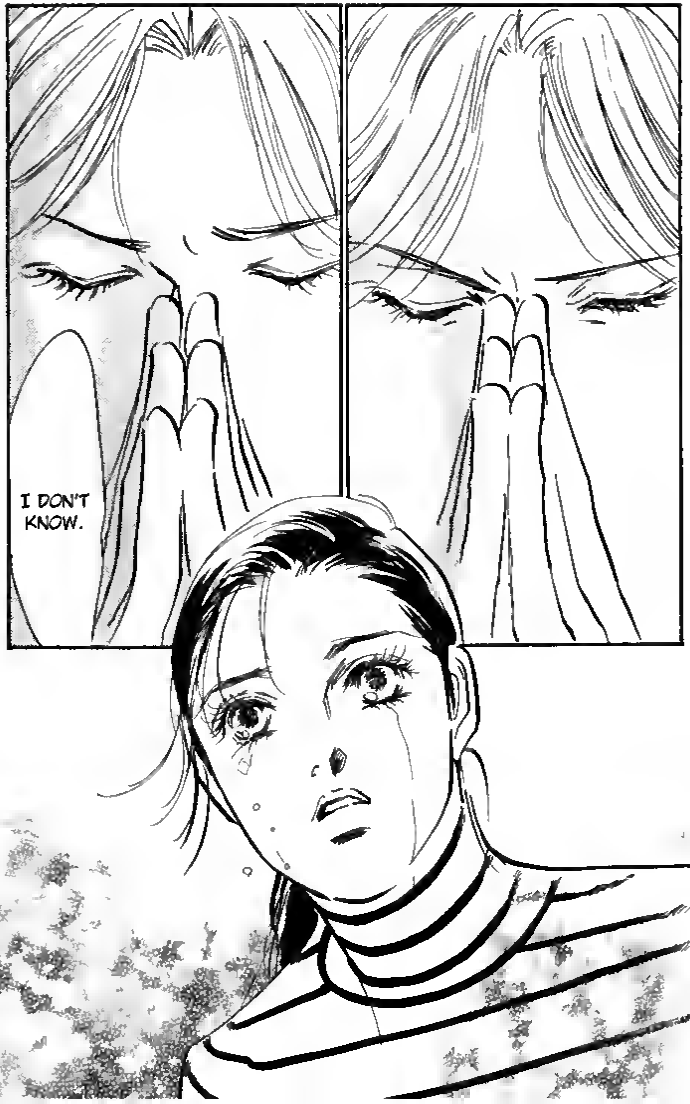
NO.
...NO.

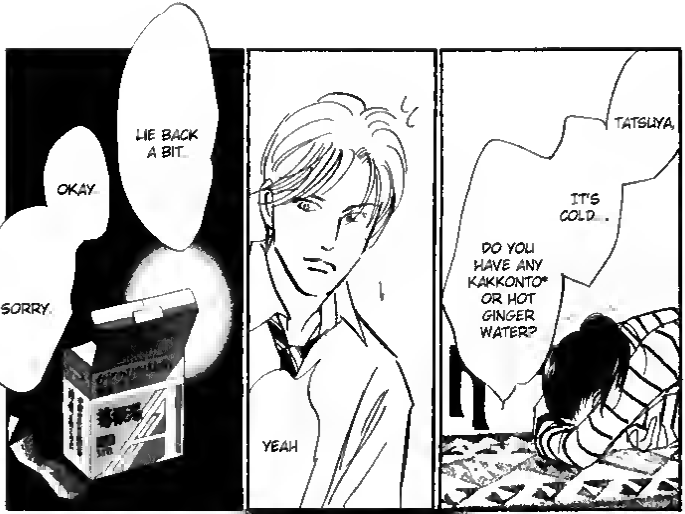
WE NEVER REALLY HAD ANY FIGHTS.

HUH?
WHAT
HUH!?
I ALWAYS HELD MY TONGUE...
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS— IT'S BECAUSE I ALWAYS PUT UP WITH YOU.
IS THAT TRUE?
TATSUYA HELD BACK, TOO?
HA HA

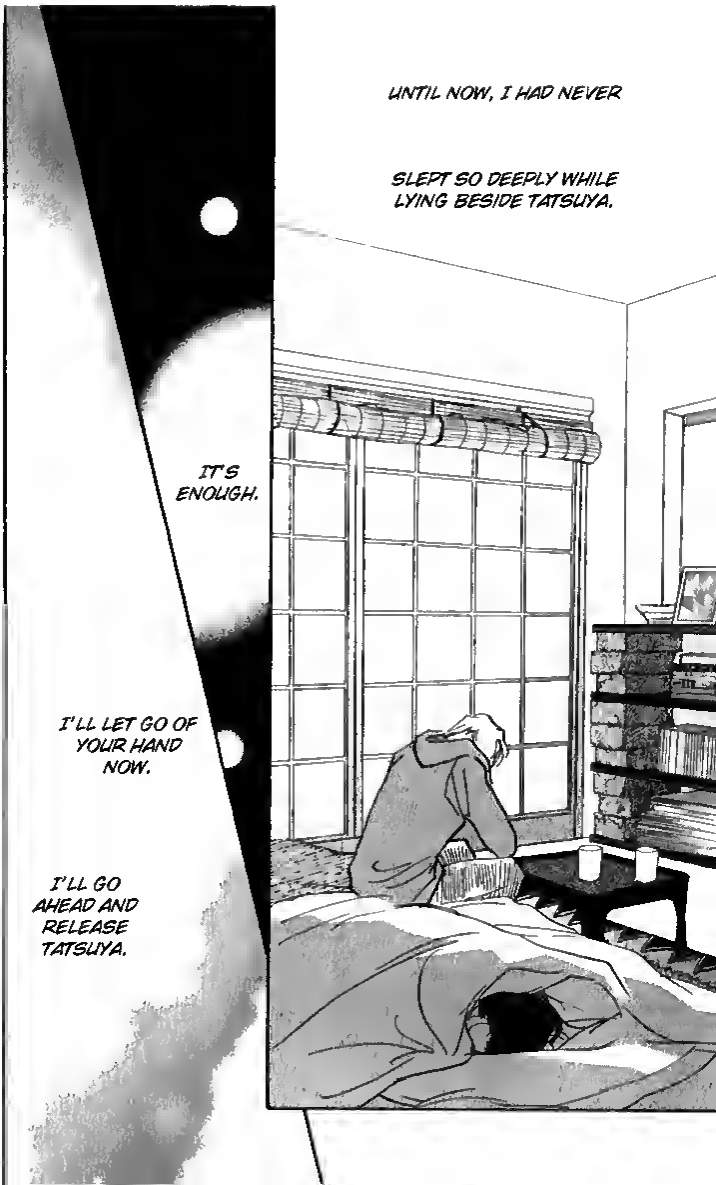
I WASN'T
COMMUNICATING WITH HIM AT ALL.
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
YEAH.
I HELD BACK
TOO...!
I WONDER IF
WE HAVE EVEN A 1% CHANCE OF BEING ABLE TO START OVER, ONE MORE TIME..!
IF WE CAN FIGHT...
BUT
IF WE TALK LIKE THIS


NO.
DID YOU LOVE ME?


I DON'T KNOW.

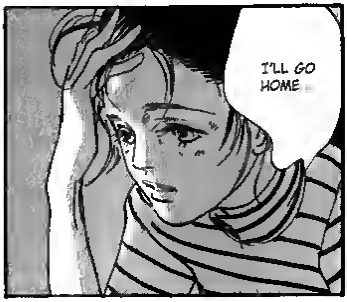


(*T/N: Kakkonto is a hot herbal drink.)


UNTIL NOW, I HAD NEVER
SLEPT SO DEEPLY WHILE LYING BESIDE TATSUYA.
IT'S ENOUGH.
I'LL LET GO OF YOUR HAND NOW.
I'LL GO AHEAD AND RELEASE TATSUYA.

AND WHAT AM I

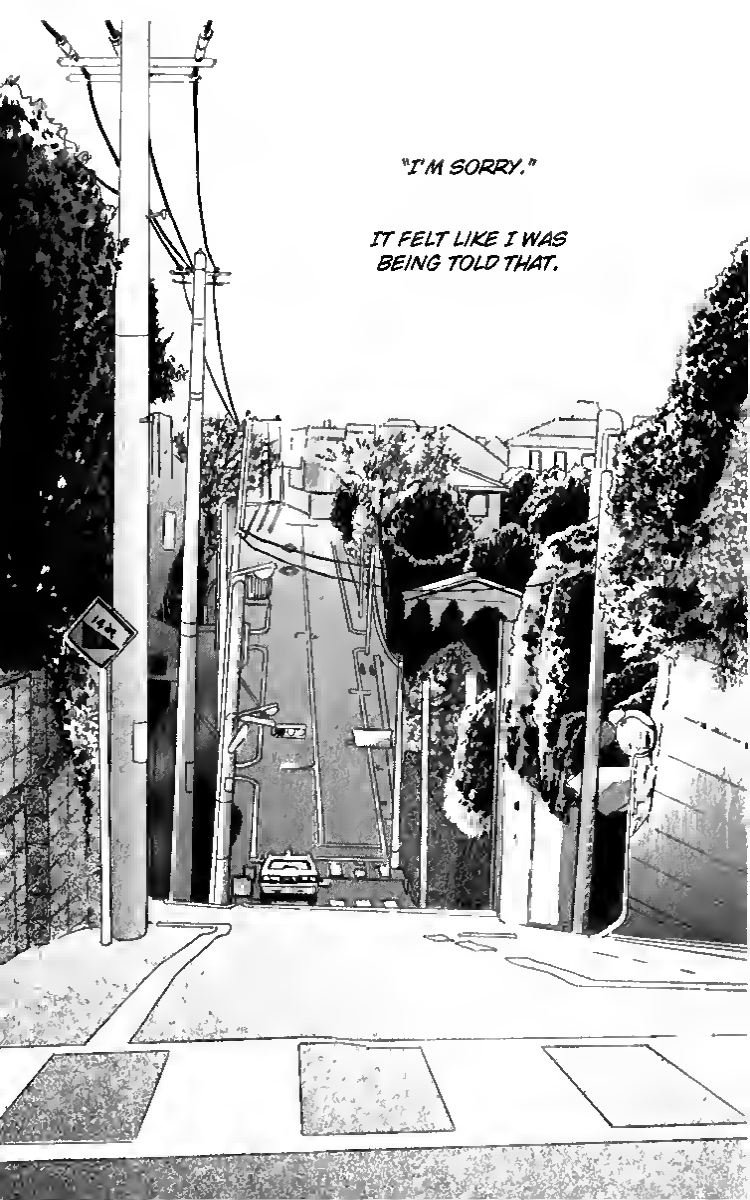
RELEASED FROM?



IT'S SO MYSTERIOUS.
VROOOM...
THIS IS THE END
EVEN THOUGH, I'M SITTING NEXT TO TATSUYA, HAVING THINGS SETTLED LIKE THIS.
DATING A GIRL, LIKE NORMAL.
ENTERING A COMPANY, LIKE NORMAL
NiSSA

IT MADE ME FEEL SECURE TO THINK TO MYSELF THAT I WOULD MARRY, LIKE NORMAL
THERE WAS NO BASIS TO THAT IDEA

I SEE I WAS NAIVE.
BUT WHEN I REALLY OPENED MY EYES,


"I'M SORRY."
IT FELT LIKE I WAS BEING TOLD THAT.

MY EYES ..
A PACK FOR THE CIRCLES AROUND...
I SLEPT FOR ONE HOUR.
I ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT BE LATE
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
OH...

◆ End of Chapter 31 ◆

Real Clothes
by Maximura Satoru
Brought to you by WingtipCafe.com
Translated by Quixoticpixel
Proof Read by Cyber 3
Cleaned by Alixj
Typeset by Chihaya
QC by Maris

Real Clothes
Chapter 32

—TO WEAR?
I HAVE NOTHING
I TRY ON THIS AND THAT,
THERE ARE NO OUT-OF-OFFICE RUNS, NO MORNING NO CONFERENCES TODAY.
I'M ALL OUT OF WHACK.
AND NOTHING FEELS RIGHT.
IT'S A DAY I CAN WEAR WHATEVER I LIKE, AND YET...!

ARGH, I DON'T LIKE ANY OF THESE.
PANT
DID I LOSE WEIGHT?
PANT
IS THAT WHAT IT IS?
PANT
BECAUSE I BROKE IT OFF WITH TATSUYA?
WHY?
HM!?
AAAAH!
WHAT'S UP WITH MY HAIR!! IT'S A RAT'S NEST!

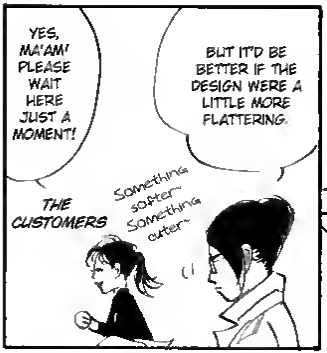
I THOUGHT I'D SPEND MY FREE TIME OUT ON THE SALES FLOOR TODAY!
YES, WELL!
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHOA . DAIMYOUJIN IS A PRETTY GOOD GUY?
GLITTER
TWINKLE
HM~.

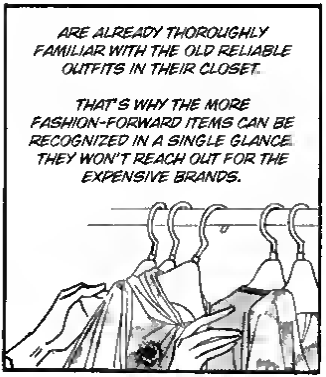
SEEING THE CUSTOMERS' FACES REALLY INCREASES ONE'S MOTIVATION, HUH—
I'M GOING OVER TO THE SALES FLOOR TOO
NIKOLIN, TOO...
NOPE! NIKOLIN, YOU ARE COMING WITH ME TO MAKE THE ROUNDS AMONG THE SUPPLIERS.
YOUR SKIN IS GORGEOUS—!
HUH,?
WERE THEY ALWAYS SUCH HOT GUYS?
WE'LL FORCE TAKAMINEYA DEPARTMENT STORE TO WITHDRAW, AND ECHIZENYA WILL PICK IT UP
EH〜?
WE WILL MAKE SURE TO BRING BACK A CONTRACT TO HAVE "KUCCI" APPEAR IN OUR STORES
EH〜?!

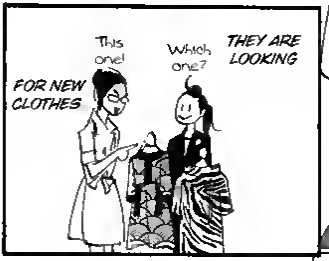
THE RICH, FIXED-INCOME DEVOTEES AMONG THE FANATICS THAT FOLLOW "KUCCI" WILL COME TO US IN DROVES.
CHORTLE
IF I WERE TO GET A RACK OF MY CHOICE OF ONE JACKET AT 30,000—
CHORTLE
AND BESIDES THAT, I'VE SEEN THAT A LOT OF OUR HIGHER-END CUSTOMERS LIKE "KUCCI."
I WOULD SELL IT, AND SELL IT, AND COULD NEVER GET ENOUGH OF IT.
MUHA HAHA
Have I said too much?
AH HA!
AH HA!
AH HA HA HA

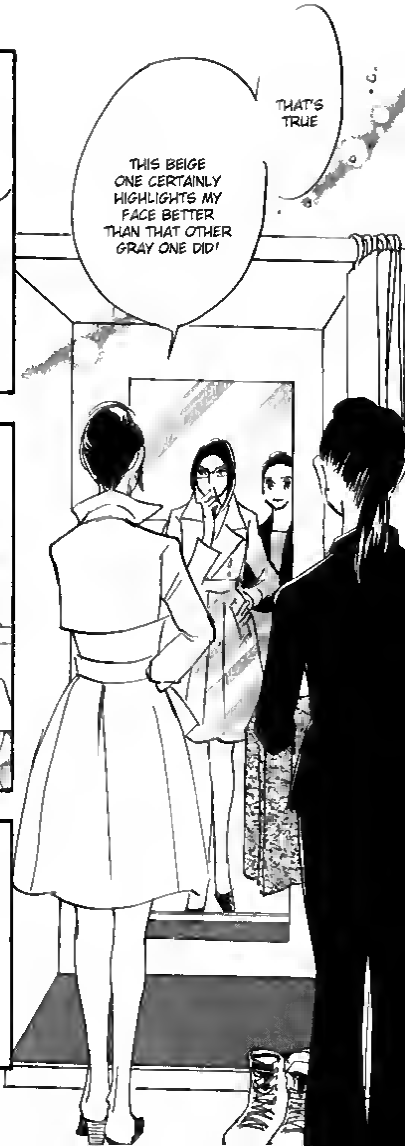
Real Clothes 5

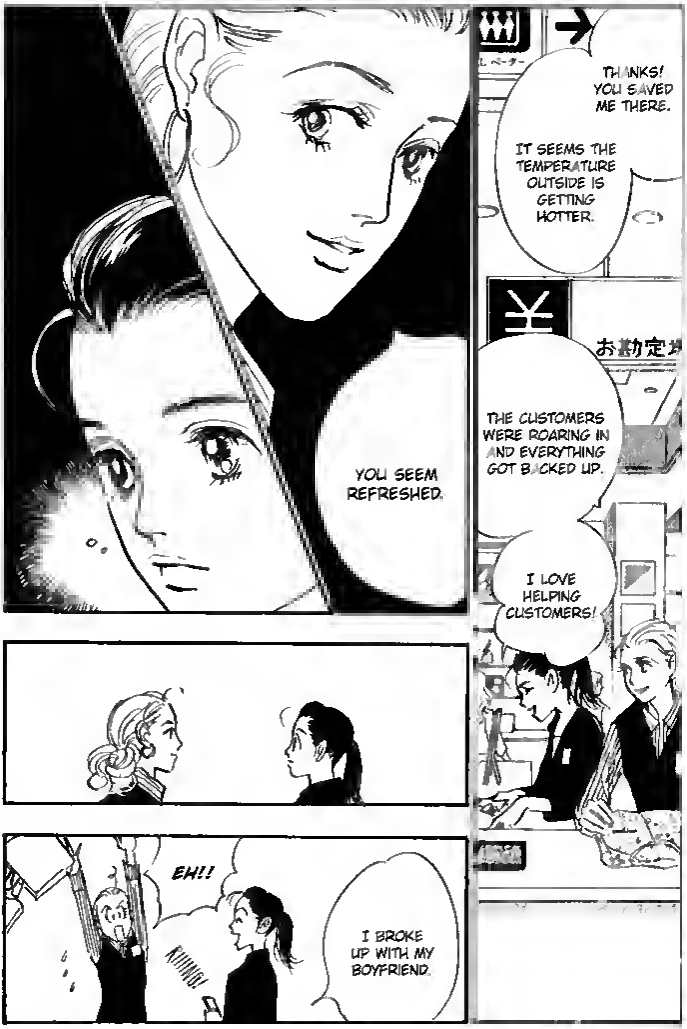
HM?
CLOTHES THAT COST 30,000 YEN ARE... SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, I'D THINK...
UM~
HOW TO PUT IT?
THE CLOTHES THAT REAL, NORMAL GIRLS LOOK FOR ARE...
INDEED.
OH WELL ANYWAYS, BEING ABLE TO SELL HIGHER-PRICED ITEMS MAKES ME HAPPY.
I'M SORRY FOR THE WAIT. A FITTING ROOM IS AVAILABLE NOW.
the Space


YES, MA'AM! PLEASE WAIT HERE JUST A MOMENT!
BUT IT'D BE BETTER IF THE DESIGN WERE A LITTLE MORE FLATTERING.
THE CUSTOMERS
Something softer. Something cuter.


ARE ALREADY THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE OLD RELIABLE OUTFITS IN THEIR CLOSET.
THAT'S WHY THE MORE FASHION-FORWARD ITEMS CAN BE RECOGNIZED IN A SINGLE GLANCE. THEY WON'T REACH OUT FOR THE EXPENSIVE BRANDS.

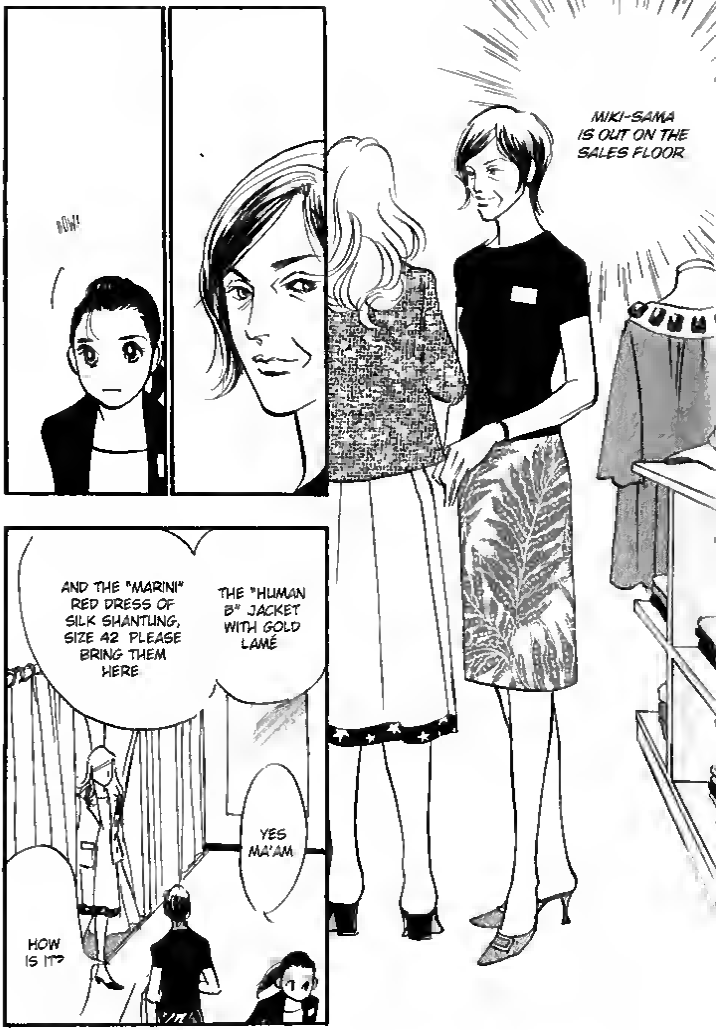

THEY ARE LOOKING FOR NEW CLOTHES
This one!
Which one?


THAT'S TRUE
THIS BEIGE ONE CERTAINLY HIGHLIGHTS MY FACE BETTER THAN THAT OTHER GRAY ONE DID!

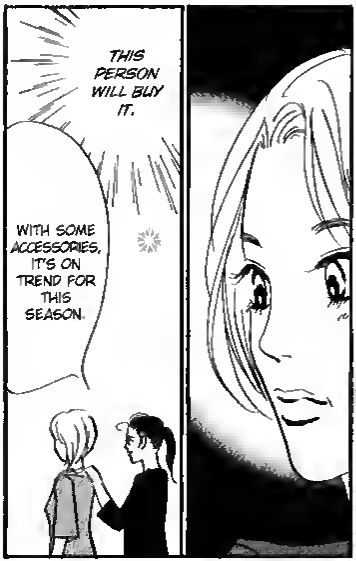

YOU SEEM REFRESHED.
THANKS! YOU SAVED ME THERE.
IT SEEMS THE TEMPERATURE OUTSIDE IS GETTING HOTTER.
THE CUSTOMERS WERE ROARING IN AND EVERYTHING GOT BACKED UP.
I LOVE HELPING CUSTOMERS!
EH!!
KYUNG!
I BROKE UP WITH MY BOYFRIEND.

BULL
HNP
TONIGHT, WE DRINK
Don't get yourself down-
THANKS!
I GOT A CALL THAT THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH HANDS ON THE FOURTH FLOOR GO SUPPORT THE SPECIAL SELECTION SALES FLOOR
HELLO, THIS IS AMANO. I'M ON THE THIRD FLOOR.
ROGER THAT
GASP!
Sharp ears!
PFT!
We will not go home!! Not until we are told to!!

Real Clothes 5

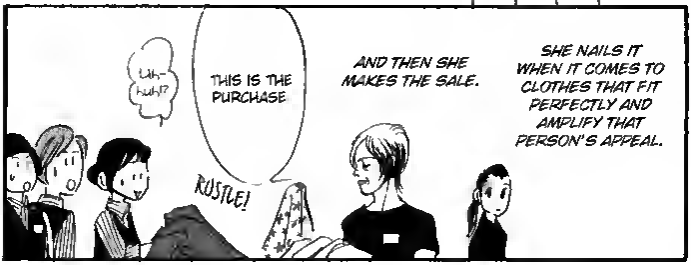

WOW!
MIKI-SAMA IS OUT ON THE SALES FLOOR
AND THE "MARINI" RED DRESS OF SILK SHANTUNG, SIZE 42 PLEASE BRING THEM HERE
THE "HUMAN B" JACKET WITH GOLD LAMÉ
YES MA'AM
HOW IS IT?

THE PINK DRESS GOES TO THE CUSTOMER IN THE BACK
AH! THIS IS A GOOD BAL-ANCE
IF YOU LOOK AT THEM FOR THREE MINUTES, YOU SHOULD GROW ACCUSTOMED TO THEM— IF THE CLOTHES TRULY DO SUIT YOU, THAT IS
IT SUITS YOU WELL
CLOTHES THIS DARING MAKE ME BLUSH.
HUH?
OH— RIGHT
THESE CLOTHES DON'T MAKE YOU LOOK THINNER
YOU MUST TRY THIS ONE AS WELL, PLEASE!
HM?
WHAT? A PINK THIS BRIGHT?
THAT'S WAY TOO GAUDY. I'M 40 YEARS OLD, YOU REALIZE?



SHE GRASPS THE SITUATION.

MIKI-SAMA CAN SEE THROUGH TO A CUSTOMER'S TRUE QUALITY WITH ONLY A SINGLE GLANCE



AND THEN SHE MAKES THE SALE.

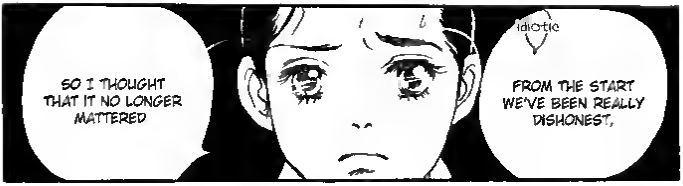
SHE NAILS IT WHEN IT COMES TO CLOTHES THAT FIT PERFECTLY AND AMPLIFY THAT PERSON'S APPEAL.

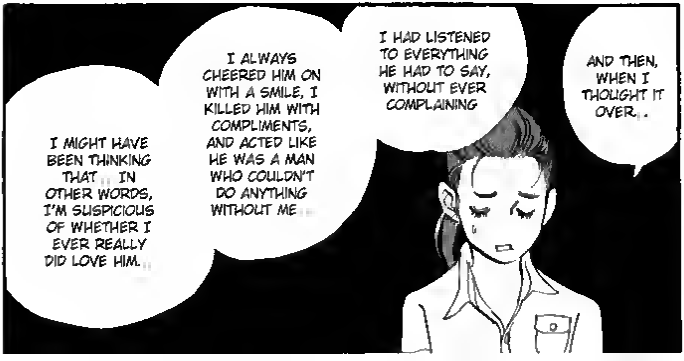
SLIDE!
TRY THIS ON LATER.
YOU NEED NEW CLOTHES.
HERE.
NEW CLOTHES...

IMPOSSIBLE! BUT DID I
A NEW ME
SHE UNDERSTANDS
ALREADY REVEAL
IT'S OBVIOUS TO PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND
MY BREAK-UP
TO MIKI-SAMA?
I SOB, AND I SOB, AND I'VE CRIED MY EYES OUT.
I WONDER IF I'VE CHANGED

-AND THEN
WHEN I ASKED HIM- IF HE HAD EVER LOVED ME,
EVEN NOW, WHEN THINGS WERE INEVITABLE,
HE SAID- "I DON'T KNOW."
oof~
eh~
GROAN~
YOU WENT THROUGH SO MUCH. YOU POOR THING~
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT~
Okaa-san~

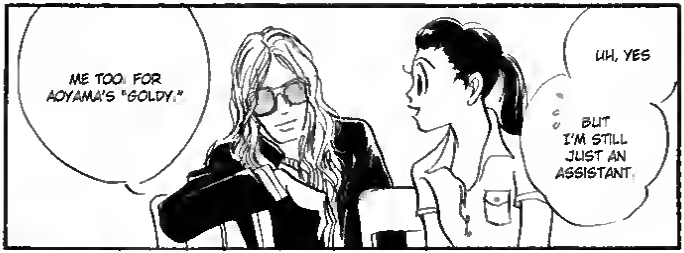
(T/N: A respectful term for a mother.)




I MIGHT HAVE BEEN THINKING THAT... IN OTHER WORDS, I'M SUSPICIOUS OF WHETHER I EVER REALLY DID LOVE HIM...
I ALWAYS CHEERED HIM ON WITH A SMILE, I KILLED HIM WITH COMPLIMENTS, AND ACTED LIKE HE WAS A MAN WHO COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT ME...
I HAD LISTENED TO EVERYTHING HE HAD TO SAY, WITHOUT EVER COMPLAINING
AND THEN, WHEN I THOUGHT IT OVER...

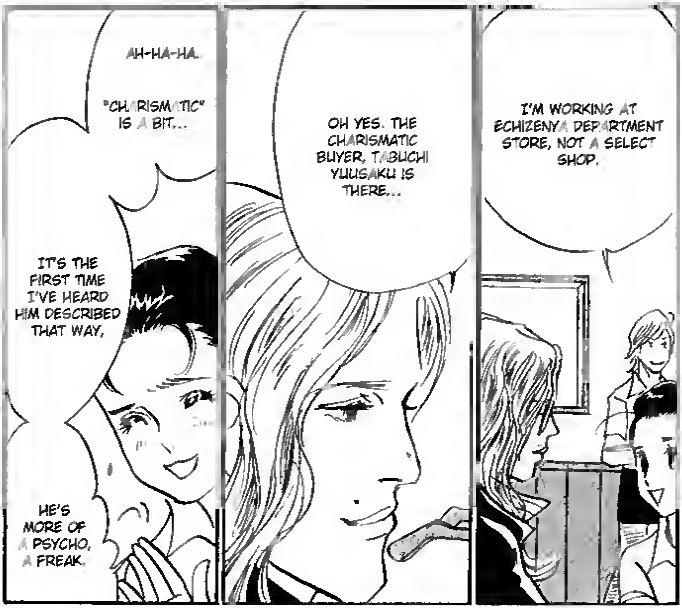
IS THAT FUNNY TO YOU?
WOW. THEN DOES THIS MEAN THE ARRIVAL OF A MEGA-FUNDED RIVAL IN THE SHINJUKU AREA!?
IS THAT WHY THE EXPRESSIONS OF THE TOP BRASS HAVE BEEN SO SEVERE?
HEY, IF WE WERE TO MERGE WITH SOME OTHER PLACE, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
OH AND HEY. IT SEEMS THE RUMORS ABOUT TAKAMINEYA AND IMAMARU MERGER ARE TRUE
IF I WERE TO GET HIS TAKE, I THINK HE'D BE ALL, "HEY, HEY NOW."
HE'D SAY I'VE CHANGED SINCE I MOVED TO THE LADIES FASHION 3RD DEPARTMENT...
I'M SURE OF IT.

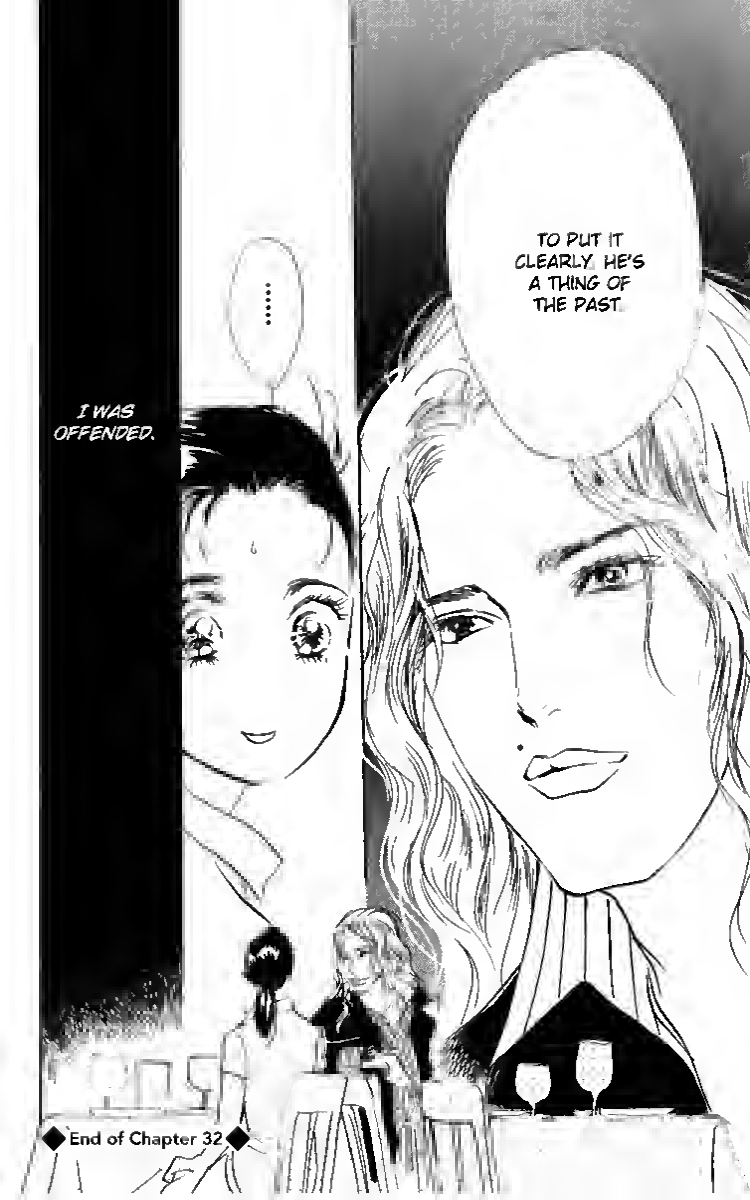
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE CHECK!
CIGARETTE BREAK.
Ho Ho Ho!
POWDER ROOM.
WELL, I GUESS THAT WOULDN'T HAPPEN— TO US.
ARE YOU A BUYER?


ME TOO. FOR AOYAMA'S "GOLDY."
UH, YES
BUT I'M STILL JUST AN ASSISTANT.

THAT'S A GORGEOUS STORE!!
EH!!

THANKS.


I'M WORKING AT ECHIZENYA DEPARTMENT STORE, NOT A SELECT SHOP.
OH YES. THE CHARISMATIC BUYER, TABUCHI YUUSAKU IS THERE...
AH-HA-HA.
"CHARISMATIC" IS A BIT...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD HIM DESCRIBED THAT WAY.
HE'S MORE OF A PSYCHO, A FREAK.



End of Chapter 32

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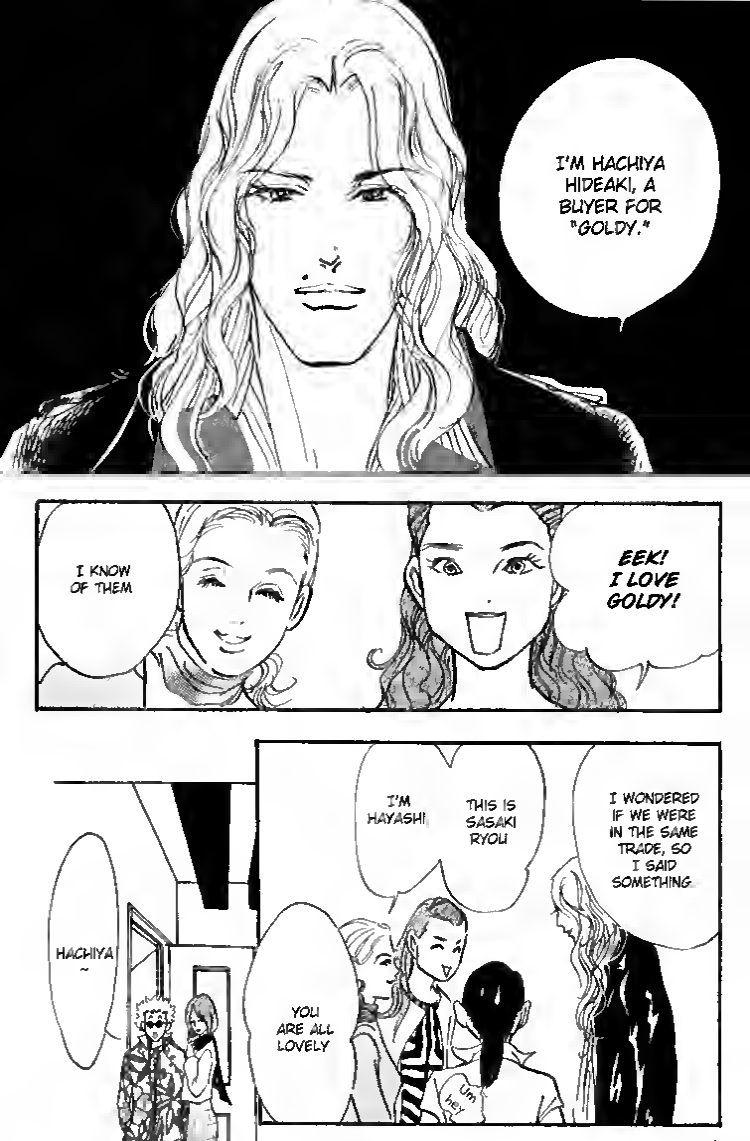
Real Clothes

By Makimura Satoru

Real Clothes
Chapter 33
Tabuchi Yuusaku-san
He puts his suits together from exhibitions. He ends up giving last season's items to his subordinates. Dol&Gabba suit, retail price: ¥240,000. His job is flashy and superfly.
Shirakawa Nichola Bouquet-san
The vest was knit by his girlfriend during his time at lycee. He wears it proudly. All his clothes are vintage and he tries many ensembles. These are bell-bottoms from his father's hippy days.

HE TICKS ME OFF~!
HELLO..
HEY~
Amano Kinue-san
In the middle of a slump over what to wear. She thinks today is especially hideous. It reveals how scattered her emotions are. Her company's brand polo shirt, aimed at teenagers and a skirt to hide the lower half of her body
∞?Δ?√-san
He adores artisan work. He likes soft things. He hates insensibility. His skull scarf is a jest.

THIS JERK JUST BAD-MOUTHED TABUCHI~!
A FRIEND OF KINJIE'S?
OH DEAR
Sasaki Ryou
Has been without a boyfriend for six months. Therefore, she has endlessly dedicated herself to femininity. A daring dress with a mauve cardigan to soften it. Pop fashion with her individuality.
Hayashi-san
She goes through her wardrobe that has been systematically organized. She has a rule for herself to keep it "mature" around her chest.


I'M HACHIYA HIDEAKI, A BUYER FOR "GOLDY."
I KNOW OF THEM
EEK! I LOVE GOLDY!
I'M HAYASHI
THIS IS SASAKI RYOU
I WONDERED IF WE WERE IN THE SAME TRADE, SO I SAID SOMETHING
HACHIYA ~
YOU ARE ALL LOVELY
Um hey

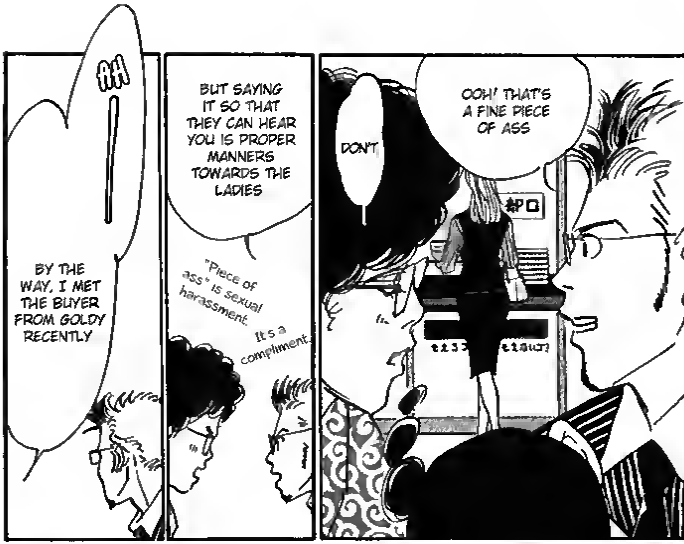
Real Clothes 5

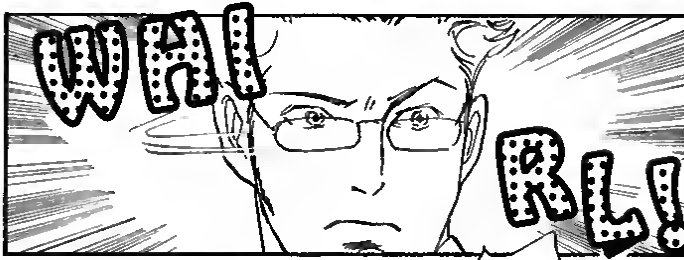
HE'S GREAT
SUCH A NICE VOICE— SOFT AND FRANK
You think?
HE'S AT GOLDY, THAT MEANS HE'S FROM THE KAISEI-TODAI* LINE-UP, YOU REALIZE?
SO WHAT OF IT?
(*T/N These are well-known prestigious schools in Japan.)

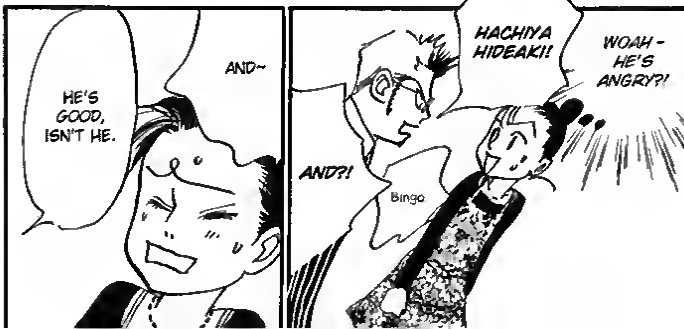
THAT'S JUST THE FASHION— THE MODE!
SOMEONE FROM KAISEI-TODAI WOULD NORMALLY AIM TO BE A BUREAUCRAT.
IN TRUTH, ISN'T HE STUPID?
AMANO-SAN, YOU'VE BEEN MAKING SWIPES AT HIM... DID HE SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?
NOT REALLY~!

IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS SPEAKING ILL OF ME OR ANYTHING.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT SUIT THAT THE MANAGING DIRECTOR MORINAGA WAS JUST WEARING?
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S A TACKY BASEBALL PLAYER.
SO WHAT HAS GOT ME SO IRRITATED?
AH HA HA HA HA
SHIKE...!
BOSS, YOU...

I HEARD YOU GRADUATED AT THE TOP OF YOUR CLASS FROM THE FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN NEW YORK...
BOSS, DON'T MAKE NOISES!!
SLURP~
FLUP
?
IT'S INCREDIBLE THAT THIS PERSON .
HOWEVER, HE'S ALSO CUTE— SOMETIMES
M-M-M...
'SCUSE...
BORING CON- VERSA- TION...
AN INCRED- IBLY
I WONDER WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE THE HEAD OF THE CLASS


!!!
BY THE WAY, I MET THE BUYER FROM GOLDY RECENTLY
BUT SAYING IT SO THAT THEY CAN HEAR YOU IS PROPER MANNERS TOWARDS THE LADIES
"Piece of ass" is sexual harassment.
It's a compliment.
DON'T
OOH! THAT'S A FINE PIECE OF ASS


WAI
RI!


HE'S GOOD, ISN'T HE.
AND~
HACHIYA HIDEAKI!!
WOAH - HE'S ANGRY?!
AND?!
Bingo

HE'S SKILLED! A GOOD BUYER.
HUH?!
TYPICALLY, AN AWFUL BUYER WILL START BY MAKING MISTAKES WITH WHAT THEY "LIKE."
THEY'LL MAKE MISTAKES BY BUYING TOO MUCH.
AND ALSO, THEY'LL BE OFF THE MARK WHEN IT COMES TO SELLING IT AND INCREASE THEIR INVENTORY.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, THEY'LL MISS THE RIGHT TIMING TO BRING DOWN THE PRICE.
THAT GUY WON'T MAKE A MISTAKE. HE'S A SMART BUYER.

YOU BETTER CAREFULLY OBSERVE GUYS WHO CAN DO THE JOB. GET IN TUNE WITH THE TRENDS OF OTHER STORES!
IS... THAT SO?
GAH! I'VE STIRRED UP A HORNET'S NEST!
EVEN FROM A GUY'S POINT OF VIEW, HE'S COOL.
HE SAID, "ALREADY A RELIC FROM THE PAST"~!
Can't say it.
BUT, BUT!
WHEN IT CAME TO TABUCHI-SAN,
HE'S A HORRIBLE MAN~!!
OH WELL,
FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW, I'M "ANTIQUATED," ANYWAY
I'M "A LAPDOG OF THE SYSTEM."

I GUESS THAT MIGHT BE "SOMEONE WHO IS PAINFUL TO WATCH"?
I—
DON'T—
THINK
THAT AT ALL—
HUH?
WHAT?
WHOA! CHECK OUT THAT RACK.

IT'S TABUCHI'S— WIN.

THIS!
THE DESIGNER, FUTABA KIMIHIKO-SAN, WILL BE STEPPING DOWN DUE TO SUDDEN ILLNESS.
DISASTER STRIKES!
THIS SUCKS!
EH?
THERE'S NOT A CHANCE IN HELL THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO SWITCH TO A DIFFERENT DESIGNER AND STAY ON SCHEDULE!
BY "ILLNESS"
SURGERY — OR SOMETHING?!
I'LL MEET WITH HIM!

IT'S GOING TO SUCK FOR ME, TOO
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
CHUCK!
WHAT DO I DO~
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT,
FUTABA-SAN'S KNITS ARE SPECIAL.
IF IT GETS CRITICAL, WE'LL JUST GO WITH AN IN-HOUSE DESIGNER.
MAKING A COPY IS JUST IN BAD TASTE
FUTABA-SAN'S KNITS ARE FULL OF MYSTERY AND CHARM.

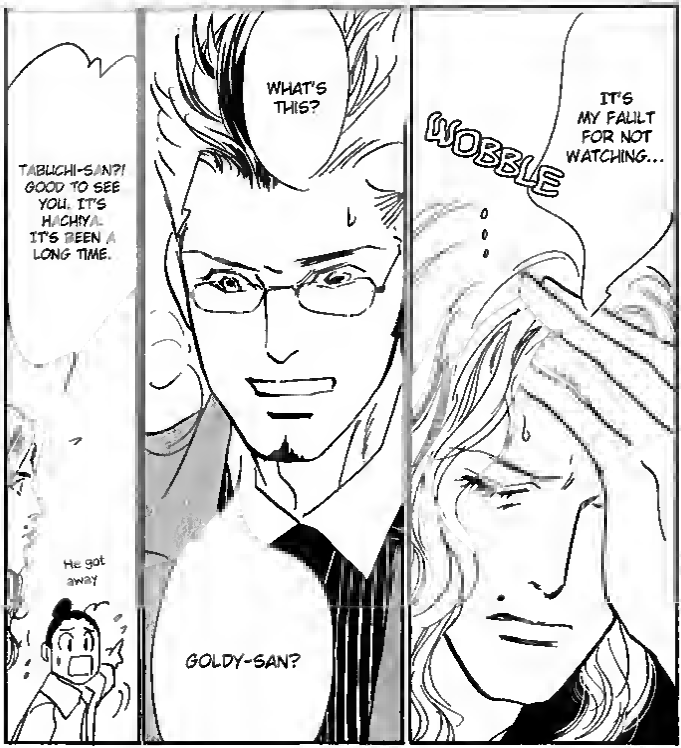
IT'S INCREDIBLY WONDERFUL~!
WHEN YOU PUT THEM ON-- IT CAN TAKE YOU BACK TO THE TIMES WHEN YOU WERE HAPPY AS A CHILD~
HUFF HUFF
I'm sorry!
BOSS, I'M GOING TO GO VISIT HIS SICKBED IN THE MEANTIME.
I'LL BRING FUTABA-SAN'S FAVORITE FLOWERS.
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE WITH THE DESIGN.
OI!
GRAB!

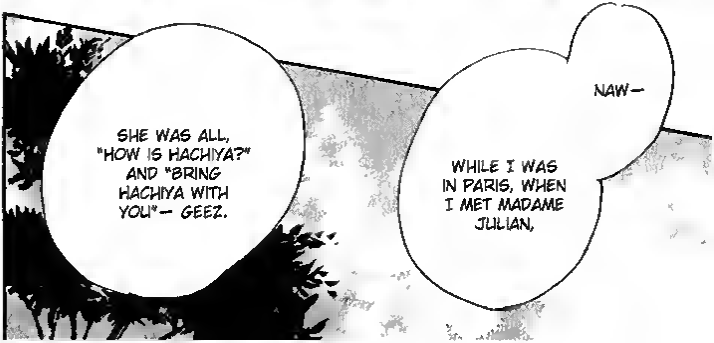
IT'S ALRIGHT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
BECAUSE HE'S NOT SICK.
HUH?
MY INTUITION.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?

RIGHT?
ARGH~?!

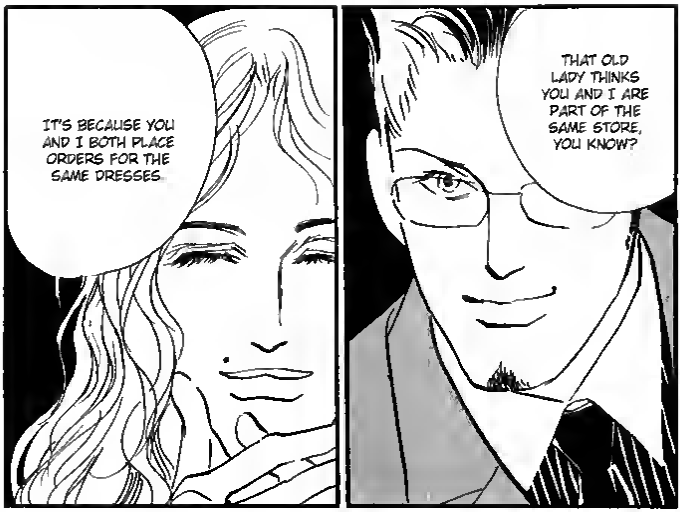
EITHER WE PIN HIM DOWN
OR WE PROSTRATE OURSELVES BEFORE HIM EITHER WAY,
WE'LL TALK IT OUT.
DASH!
STARTLE!
FUTABA-SAN!
DASH!
You're running away?!

TTUD
BA
SORRY.
OH!


IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT WATCHING...
BLOBBLE
WHAT'S THIS?
TABUCHI-SAN?! GOOD TO SEE YOU. IT'S HACHIYA. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
He got away
GOLDY-SAN?

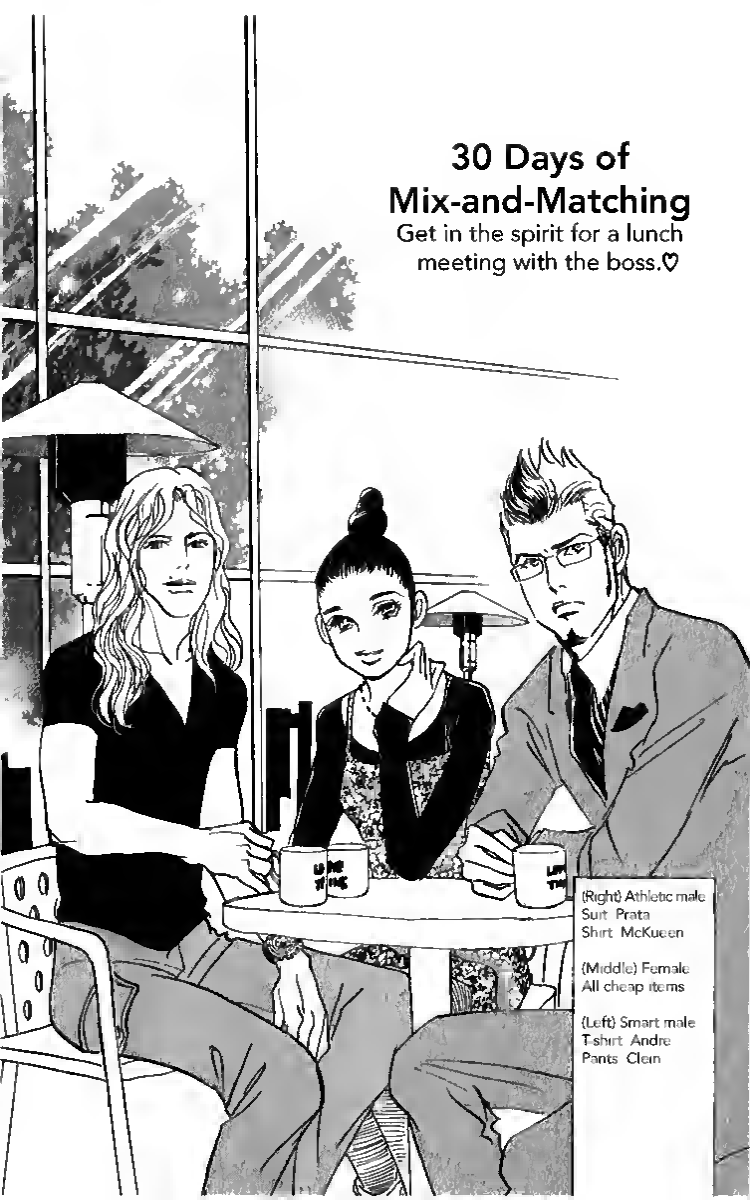

NAW—
WHILE I WAS IN PARIS, WHEN I MET MADAME JULIAN,
SHE WAS ALL, "HOW IS HACHIYA?" AND "BRING HACHIYA WITH YOU"— GEEZ.

Real Clothes 5


IT'S BECAUSE YOU AND I BOTH PLACE ORDERS FOR THE SAME DRESSES.
THAT OLD LADY THINKS YOU AND I ARE PART OF THE SAME STORE, YOU KNOW?

AS WELL AS A PAIR OF HIGH-END BUYERS HAGGLING.

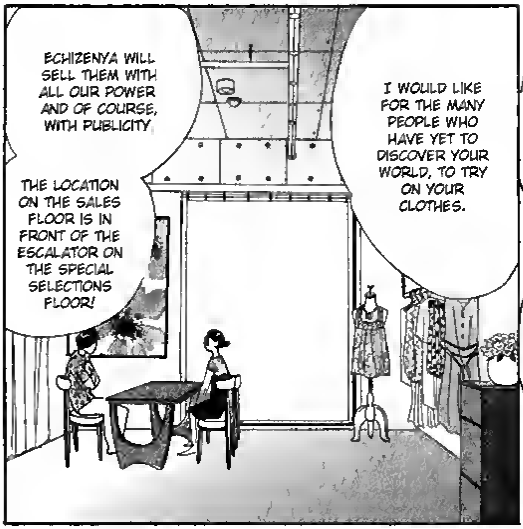
A BIZARRELY ELEGANT CONVERSATION

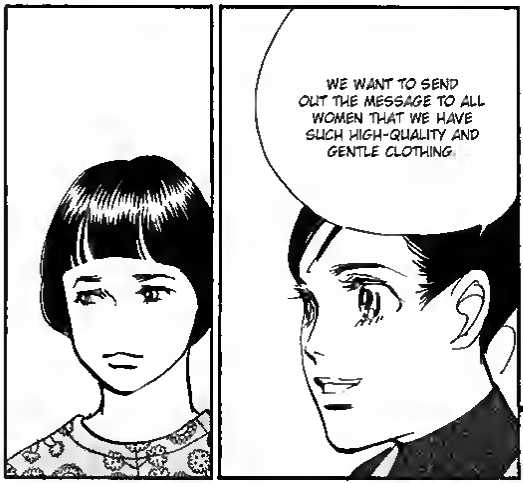

30 Days of
Mix-and-Matching
Get in the spirit for a lunch meeting with the boss.♡
(Right) Athletic male
Suit Prata
Shirt McKueen
(Middle) Female
All cheap items
(Left) Smart male
T-shirt Andre
Pants Clein

TOO BEAUTIFUL...
TO GET OUT OF HERE~!
SHIVER
I'M DYING
SOME-THING IS OFF.
ADULTS KEEP THEIR PROMISES!!
THAT ASIDE, I WILL ABSOLUTELY GO AND PERSUADE FUTABA-SAN!!
WAS HE ALWAYS SO AMIABLE?
?
?

AND FLOWERS.
?
I AM RELIEVED THAT IT ISN'T A SERIOUS ILLNESS LIKE I HAD THOUGHT.
PLEASE HAVE THIS— DORAYAKI* FROM "OGAWA"—
SMILE
PINK SAPPHIRE TULIPS? HOW CUTE.
GRIN

(*T/N: Dorayaki is a Japanese confection consisting of two pancake like layers with red bean paste in the center.)


ECHIZENYA WILL SELL THEM WITH ALL OUR POWER AND OF COURSE, WITH PUBLICITY.
THE LOCATION ON THE SALES FLOOR IS IN FRONT OF THE ESCALATOR ON THE SPECIAL SELECTIONS FLOOR!
I WOULD LIKE FOR THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE YET TO DISCOVER YOUR WORLD, TO TRY ON YOUR CLOTHES.
IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE— SO MUCH SO THAT YOU WON'T, HOWEVER— BY ALL MEANS,
PLEASE CONTINUE AS YOU HAVE, I BEG YOU


WE WANT TO SEND OUT THE MESSAGE TO ALL WOMEN THAT WE HAVE SUCH HIGH-QUALITY AND GENTLE CLOTHING.

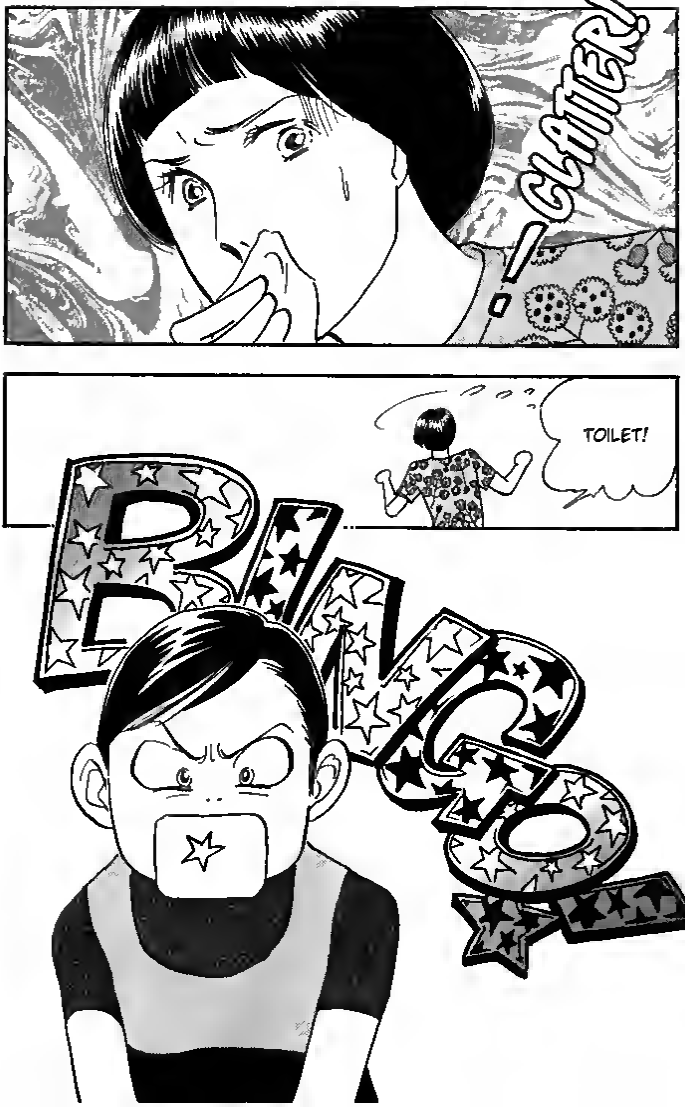
I'm sorry.
HAVING PRODUCT OUT IN A—
—A DEPARTMENT STORE IS THE END OF ME AS A CREATOR, THEY SAY.
BUT
I'M SCARED.
I'M NOT AN IDIOT, IN FRONT OF THE ESCALATOR ON THE 4TH FLOOR OF ECHIZENYA...
I KNOW HOW PRESTIGIOUS THAT IS.
I KNOW HOW GREAT THE SALES WOULD BE.
HUH?
THAT CAN'T BE.
THE GREATEST MATERIAL WITH THE GREATEST FACTORY WITH THE GREATEST KNITTING— THE QUALITY WILL NOT DROP
THEY'LL CALL ME "SELLOUT"!!

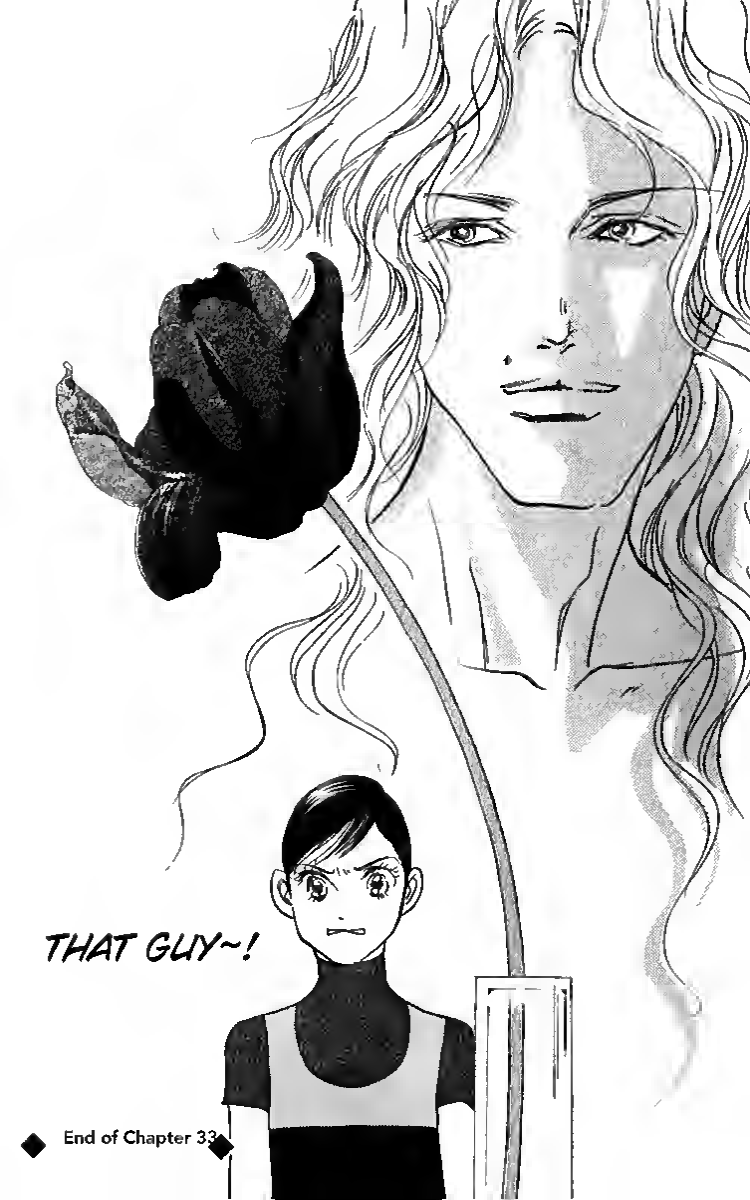
Real Clothes 5

I MEAN~
RATHER—! THAN "WHO," MORE LIKE THAT AMBIANCE?
WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING!!
PRIDE IN MAKING THINGS, NO MATTER WHAT THE ROUTE, NO MATTER WHERE IT'S SOLD, IS SOMETHING THAT WON'T CHANGE, IN MY OPINION— WITH ALL DUE RESPECT!!
IT WILL HURT MY PRIDE AS AN ARTIST!
I DON'T WANNA~
BOO-HOO
BEING ABLE TO BUY SIDE DISHES FOR A MEAL, THEN JUST HAPPENING TO BUY MY CLOTHES.
I DON'T LIKE IT!

A BLACK.. TULIP?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I— I'VE GOTTA CHANGE MY METHOD OF ATTACK.
HUFF
SLUMP
SLUMP
OH— THAT. IT'S A NEW TYPE THE "MAGIC OF NIGHT." ISN'T IT PRETTY? HACHIYA-KUN GAVE IT TO ME
GASP!

HACHIYA...?
SOMETHING IS OFF.
HACHIYA HIDEAKI...
IT COULDN'T BE..
THAT YOU'RE GETTING A CONTRACT WITH GOLDY.. OR SOMETHING?


CLATTER!
TOILET!
RING



End of Chapter 33

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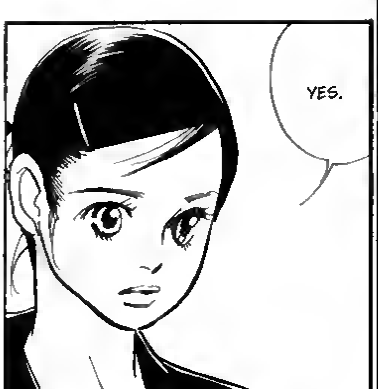
Real Clothes

by Makimura Satoru

Real Clothes

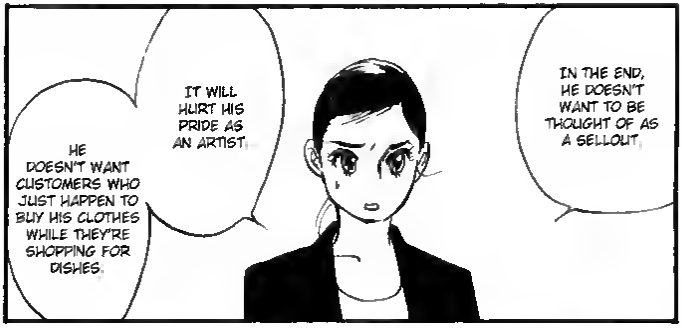
Chapter 34

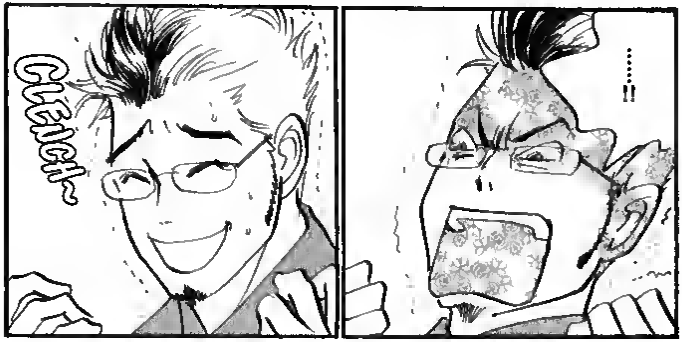

YES.

FUTABA KIMIHIKO WANTS TO KICK US TO THE CURB AND SIGN A CONTRACT WITH "GOLDY"—?!
ECHIZENYA 2

IS HE BRAIN DEAD?!
THAT DINKY LITTLE SELECT SHOP!
THEY'RE FAR TOO PARTICULAR AND HAVE FEW CUSTOMERS!
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE DAMN THING TO GAIN FROM IT.
SO WHY?!

Real Clothes 5


HE DOESN'T WANT CUSTOMERS WHO JUST HAPPEN TO BUY HIS CLOTHES WHILE THEY'RE SHOPPING FOR DISHES.
IT WILL HURT HIS PRIDE AS AN ARTIST.
IN THE END, HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE THOUGHT OF AS A SELLOUT.

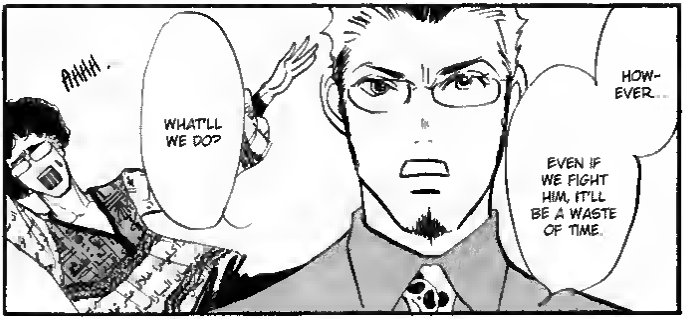


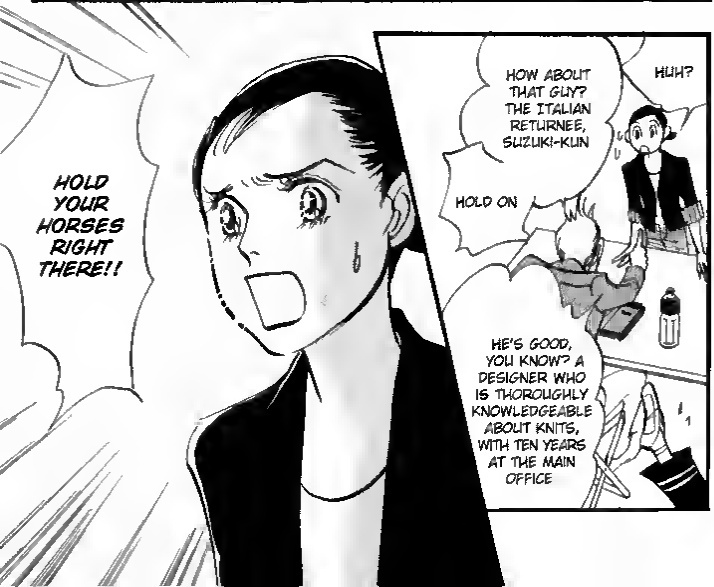
Reverse-Daimajin*
LET'S HAVE HIM BUY US ALL A PIECE OF 800 YEN CHOCOLATE OR A 100,000 YEN BOTTLE OF PINK CHAMPAGNE OR SOMETHING!!
YEN RICHES COME ON
LET'S REAP AN ABUNDANCE OF WEALTH TOGETHER.
WOULDN'T THAT BE GRAND?

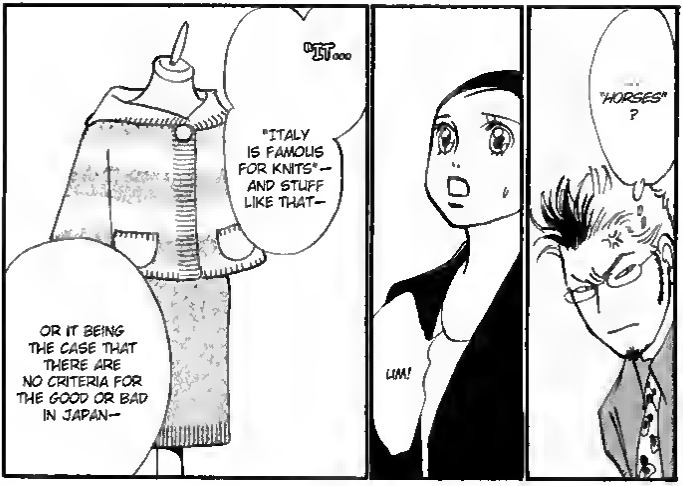
(*T/N Daimajin is a giant stone idol in a series of movies. It came to life and went on rampages to protect poor villagers from rich evil warlords.)

AND... YOU'RE CRYING.
BLEH~!
FLAP!
WE HAVE A CONTRACT! WE'LL TAKE HIM TO COURT AND HAVE ABSOLUTE VICTORY!!
HE'S ABSOLUTELY CORRECT.
FLUTTER...

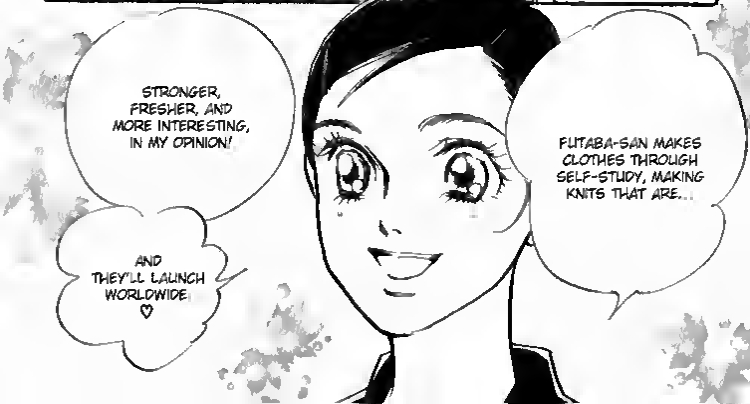
Real Clothes 5



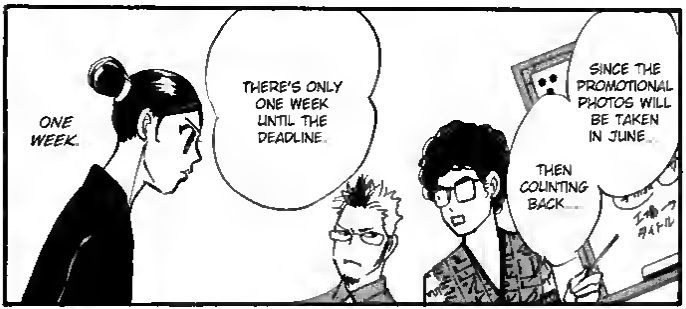

HOLD YOUR HORSES RIGHT THERE!!
HOW ABOUT THAT GUY? THE ITALIAN RETURNEE, SUZUKI-KUN
HUH?
HOLD ON
HE'S GOOD, YOU KNOW? A DESIGNER WHO IS THOROUGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT KNITS, WITH TEN YEARS AT THE MAIN OFFICE


"IT"...
"ITALY IS FAMOUS FOR KNITS"— AND STUFF LIKE THAT—
OR IT BEING THE CASE THAT THERE ARE NO CRITERIA FOR THE GOOD OR BAD IN JAPAN—
UM!
..."HORSES"?

BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY,
JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE JUST SHADOWING, IN THE SENSE THAT NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO OR HOW THEY DO IT, THEY'RE JUST HAVING FUN REHASHING IT ALL


STRONGER, FRESHER, AND MORE INTERESTING, IN MY OPINION!
AND THEY'LL LAUNCH WORLDWIDE ♡
FUTABA-SAN MAKES CLOTHES THROUGH SELF-STUDY, MAKING KNITS THAT ARE...

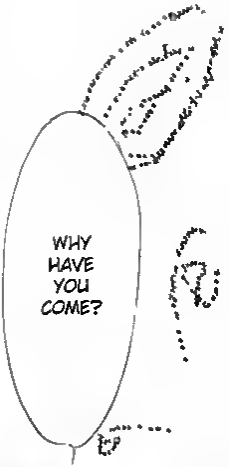
HOW LONG WILL THAT TAKE?
I AM GOING TO MAKE FUTABA-SAN PASSIONATE FOR THIS!
You say funny things, you.
ERK!


ONE WEEK.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WEEK UNTIL THE DEADLINE.
SINCE THE PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN IN JUNE...
THEN COUNTING BACK...

GO FORTH!
TAKE A BITE OUT OF HIM LIKE A SNAPPING TURTLE!
YES, SIR!
SLAM-!
I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT!
The ideal supervisor
CLAP CLAP CLAP

DISMAY
ALTHOUGH I'M ALREADY ENVISIONING HER DEFEAT.
I HATE HAVING TO COVER FOR AN INCOMPETENT SUBORDINATE.

AND I HAVE SOME SAMPLES TO OFFER.
I'M ON A DIET.
SNUB
TO OFFER TREATS
A GREEN TEA CHIFFON CAKE

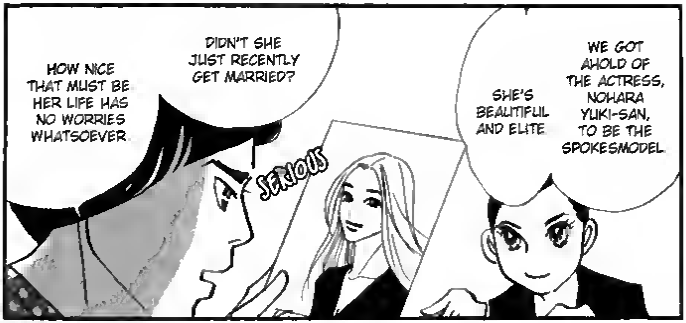

WHY HAVE YOU COME?

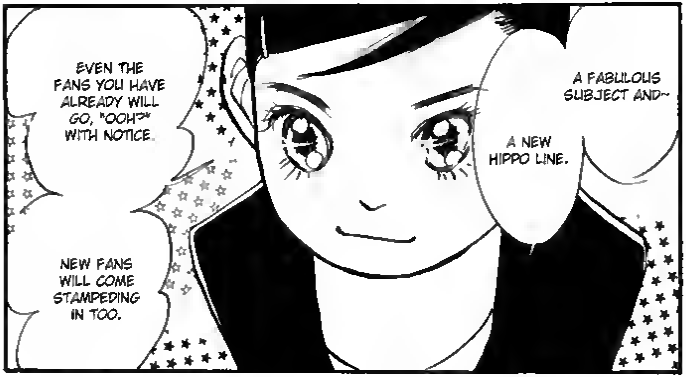
TEN MINUTES.

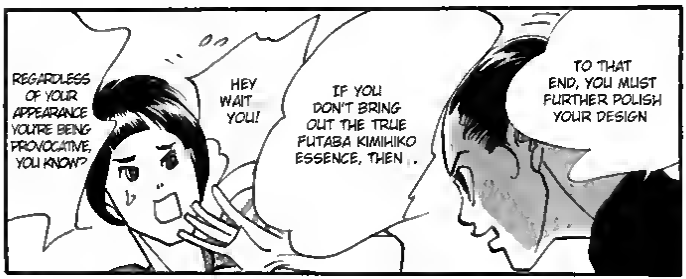
IT'S MY JOB TO BRING ABOUT A GOOD RESULT FOR YOU AND ECHIZENYA.
LET'S MAKE THIS PROJECT A SUCCESS.

--AND
I HAD A KNIT MADE FROM YOUR ROUGH DRAFTS.
Hmm
SINCE ECHIZENYA IS A DEPARTMENT STORE WHERE ALL TYPES OF AGES COME THROUGH.
I THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE...
IT'S NOT MEANT FOR BABIES!
WHAT'S THIS? IT'S TINY~! UGH~!

Flowers?
AND WITH THE BRAND NAME— "HIPPO ESSENCE"— WE'LL SHOW THAT IT IS CLEARLY FUTABA-SAN'S BRAND.
WON'T YOU TRY TO CREATE A ROOM FRAGRANCE OR PERFUME ALONG WITH THE CLOTHES?
ALSO—
OF COURSE, PEOPLE WHO ARE SHOPPING FOR DISHES WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.
BUT THAT'S... ALSO A WEAK POINT.
FOLLOWING THAT TRAIN OF THOUGHT! HOW ABOUT INSTEAD THEY BE SOLD TOGETHER WITH FLOWERS
WHAT IF WE MARKET IT WITH FLOWERS? A SPECIAL SANCTUARY SURROUNDED BY FRESH-CUT FLOWERS YOU'VE SELECTED?

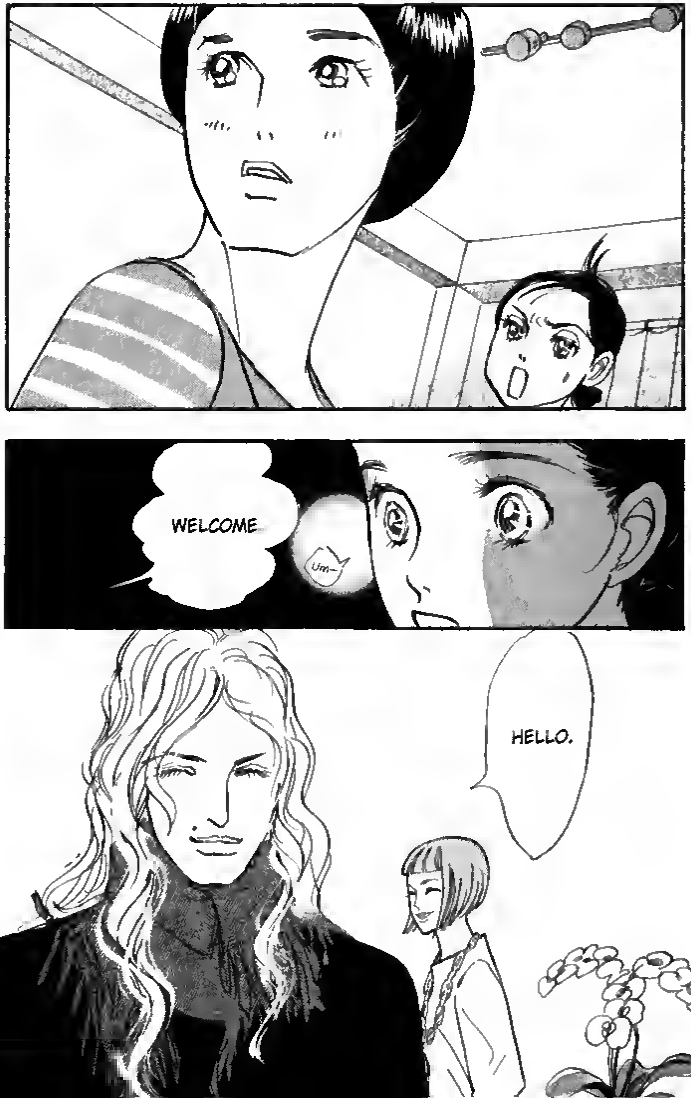

HOW NICE THAT MUST BE HER LIFE HAS NO WORRIES WHATSOEVER.
DIDN'T SHE JUST RECENTLY GET MARRIED?
SERIOUS
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL AND ELITE.
WE GOT AHOLD OF THE ACTRESS, NOHARA YUKI-SAN, TO BE THE SPOKESMODEL.


EVEN THE FANS YOU HAVE ALREADY WILL GO, "OOH?" WITH NOTICE.
NEW FANS WILL COME STAMPEDING IN TOO.
A FABULOUS SUBJECT AND~
A NEW HIPPO LINE.


REGARDLESS OF YOUR APPEARANCE YOU'RE BEING PROVOCATIVE, YOU KNOW?
HEY WAIT YOU!
IF YOU DON'T BRING OUT THE TRUE FUTABA KIMIHIKO ESSENCE, THEN .
TO THAT END, YOU MUST FURTHER POLISH YOUR DESIGN

I KNEW YOU WOULD~ ♡
BUT I WON'T DO IT!
IF I TAKE ON TOO MUCH, I'LL EXHAUST MYSELF
OGH!
IT PAINS ME TO ADMIT BUT... I'M STARTING TO GET EXCITED ABOUT IT.
YUP!
SENSEI, HACHIYA-SAN HAS ARRIVED.
NO! LIES! NO SUCH THING, I TAKE IT BACK!
YOU SAID YOU WERE GETTING EXCITED ABOUT IT!

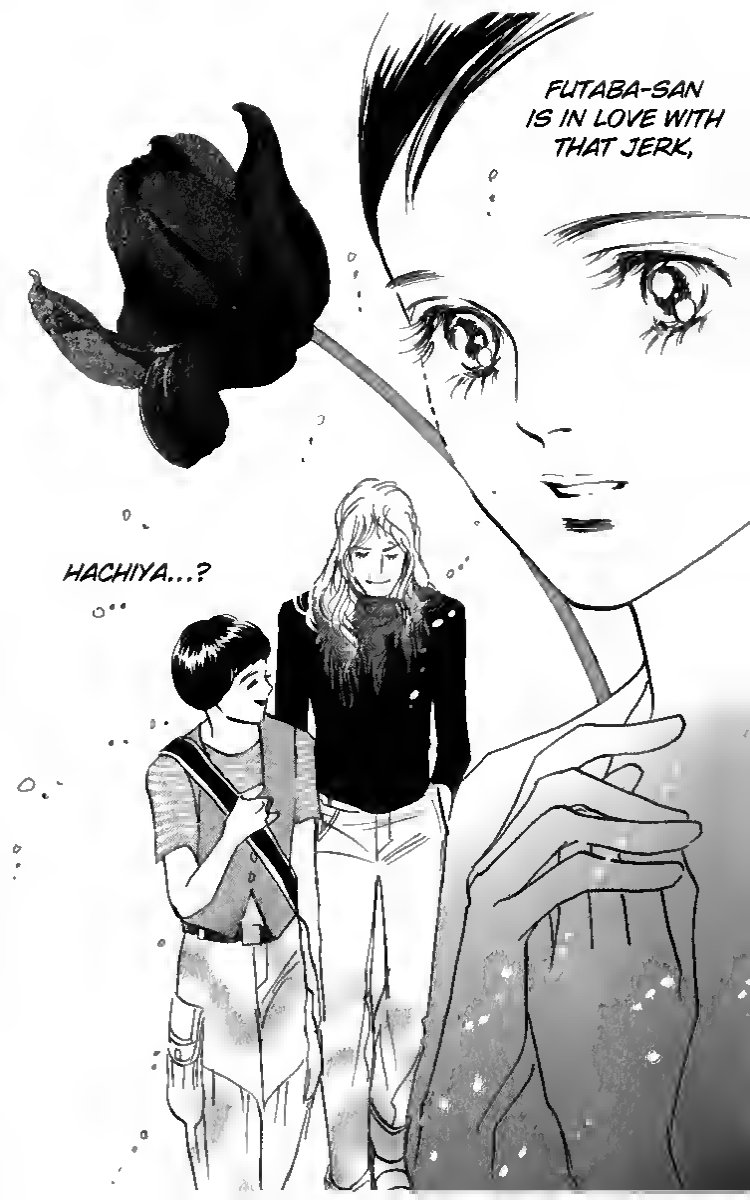
Real Clothes 5



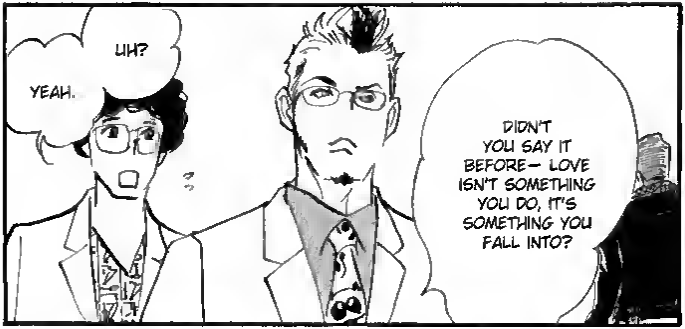
I'M SO EXCITED TO GO TO A PORTUGUESE RESTAURANT!
IT'S FINE!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO WEDGED HERSELF IN
SHALL WE GO?
HELLO
THAT FRIGGIN' BASTARD~
IT SEEMS I'VE INTRUDED. I CAME TO KILL A LITTLE MORE TIME OUT OF THE OFFICE.
AND ALSO, NON-APPOINTMENTS ARE ABSOLUTELY NOT ALLOWED!
YOU HURRY UP AND LEAVE!
HAVE A GOOD TIME~
A BUSINESS NEGOTIATION? SHIT~ I WONDER IF HE'S TALKING ABOUT FLOWERS AND PERFUMES AS WELL~

I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW, TOO.
Guess I'll go home
Reach...

HOW NICE IT MUST BE HER LIFE HAS NO WORRIES WHATSOEVER.
I'M ON A DIET.


FUTABA-SAN IS IN LOVE WITH THAT JERK,
HACHIYA...?

BOSS,
WHY WILL AMANO-SAN FAIL?
THEN IF THAT'S THE CASE,
THE CHANCES OF US SUCCEEDING ARE — NIL.



LOVE ISN'T RATIONAL, RIGHT?
EH!
AH~! IF ONLY FUTUBA WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE NO CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING.
But I'd hate it
EHH?!

◆End of Chapter 34◆

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by Makimura Satoru
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Proof-read by Cyber_3
Cleaned by Dojodacrow
Typeset by In_valen's_Name
QC by Maria

Real Clothes

Chapter 35

THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE.
IF I DON'T GET SERIOUS ABOUT SELLING IN JAPAN SOON...
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT. I'M SORRY THE PLACE IS SUCH A MESS.
I'M THE ONE ASKING YOU FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE WHEN YOU ARE SO BUSY

THIS WINTER, ECHIZENYA WILL BE SETTING UP A KNIT LINE USING THE BEST CASHMERE FROM THE JAPANESE SPINNERS.
THE TRUTH IS, WE CAME TO BEG A FAVOR
I WOULD ABSOLUTELY LOVE TO HAVE YOU DO THE DESIGN, SUZUKI-SAN
GLOOOOOW!
TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE!
THE DEADLINE IS IN ONE WEEK.

AT THE PRESENT STAGE, THAT PERSON MUST HAVE CLEARLY STEPPED DOWN— NO?
THE DESIGNER WE HAD SETTLED ON SUDDENLY BECAME ILL, AND WE'RE DOWN TO THE WIRE
NO.
SO THAT MAKES ME ... THE "FALLBACK."
I'M LOOKING AT HIM BEING ABOUT 90% OUT OF THE PICTURE.
THE TIME LIMIT TO ACT IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.
WE HAVE TO ABANDON OUR WAY OF THINKING AND MAKE A SWITCH— TO LEAVE IT TO A YOUNG, PROMISING DESIGNER— THAT IS.

THE BUSINESS SCOPE IS IN THE TENS OF MILLIONS OF YEN!
AND OF COURSE, OTHER PRODUCTS OF YOURS OUTSIDE OF THIS COLLABORATION WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN YOUR ACCOUNT AS YOU DO BUSINESS WITH ECHIZENYA.
YOU WILL HAVE A CONNECTION— THAT MUCH, I PROMISE YOU.
WE PLAN TO BRING THIS COLLECTION BACK ANNUALLY.
WE WILL DISTINCTLY PROMOTE THE DESIGNER'S NAME AS WELL.

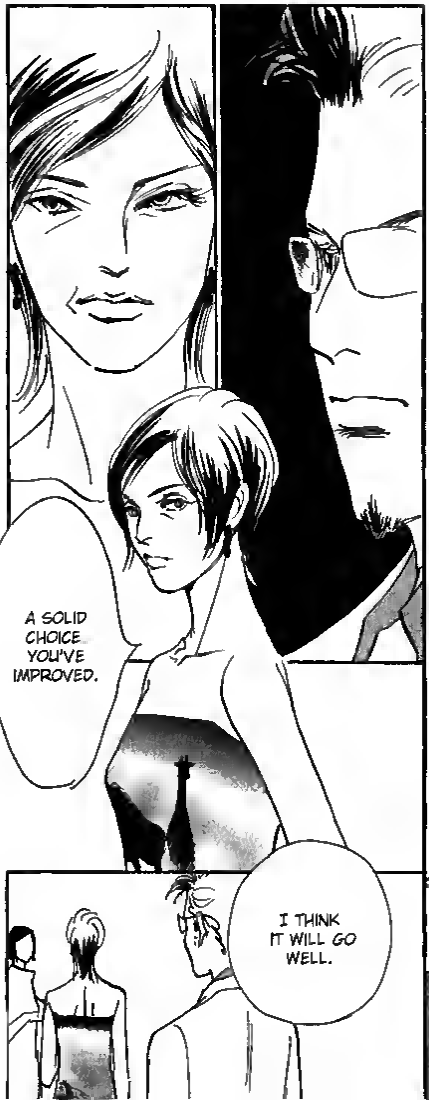
BOSS...
SUPPOSE AMANO-SAN PERSUADES FUTABA-SAN,
AND HE WERE TO FULFILL THE CONTRACT,
IN THAT CASE, WE'D HAVE HIM CRY OVER IT
THEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO SUZUKI-SAN?
WE HAVE A LITTLE BREATHING ROOM NOW.

THE LENDING AND BORROWING WILL BE PROPERLY CLEAN SALES
BUT WE'D RETURN AND FOLLOW UP WITH HIM, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.

FUTABA-SAN WAS GOOD BECAUSE HE WAS ORIGINAL, SELF-TAUGHT— SHE SAID.
IF WE COPY ITALY'S STYLE, WE'LL JUST BE RECYCLING IT ALL.
AMANO-SAN SAID IT.
IT WEIGHS ON THE MIND, DOESN'T IT.
SUZUKI-SAN IS PROMISING, AND IT'S CERTAIN HE'LL DESIGN GOOD STUFF.
HE'S SOMEONE WHO I DEFINITELY WANT ECHIZENYA TO CARRY.
BUT...

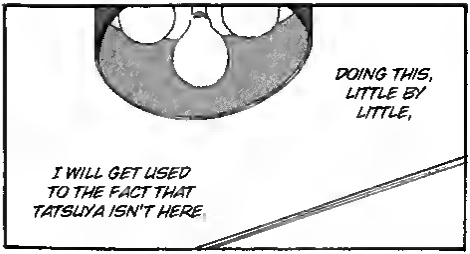
THE AIR HAS GONE STALE LET FRESH AIR IN!
YES, MA'AM!
BUCHOU, IT'S TABUCHI. MAY I HAVE JUST ONE MINUTE OF YOUR TIME?
I'M CHANGING RIGHT NOW.
I'M SORRY
WHAT
THE DESIGNER FOR CASHMERE DETOX (TEMP NAME) WILL BE CHANGED TO SUZUKI MAKOTO.
WHY
FUTABA-SAN HAS TAKEN ILL SUDDENLY.
CLICK...

Real Clothes 5

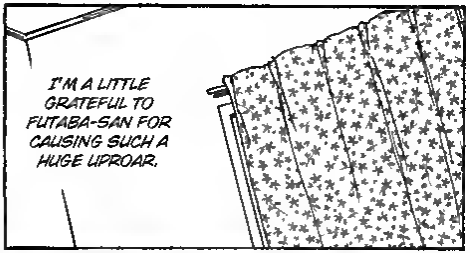


SQUEAK!
In love
Rolll...
In love
In love
In love
THEY'RE BOTH INCREDIBLY FAR AWAY.
WHAT DO LOVE AND THE PLANETARY EXPLORATION SHIP VOYAGER HAVE IN COMMON?
THE ANSWER IS—

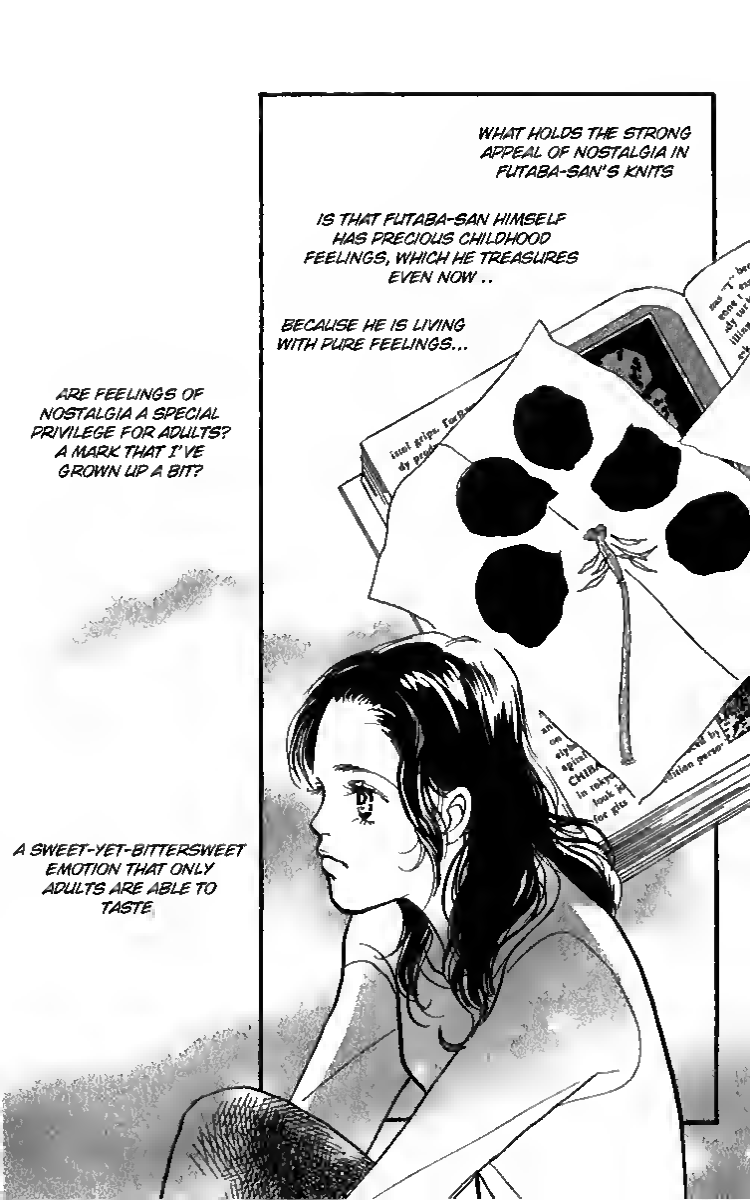
COLLEGE...
WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
THESE FEELINGS BRING BACK MEMORIES.
AH...



NOT EVEN ONCE TODAY

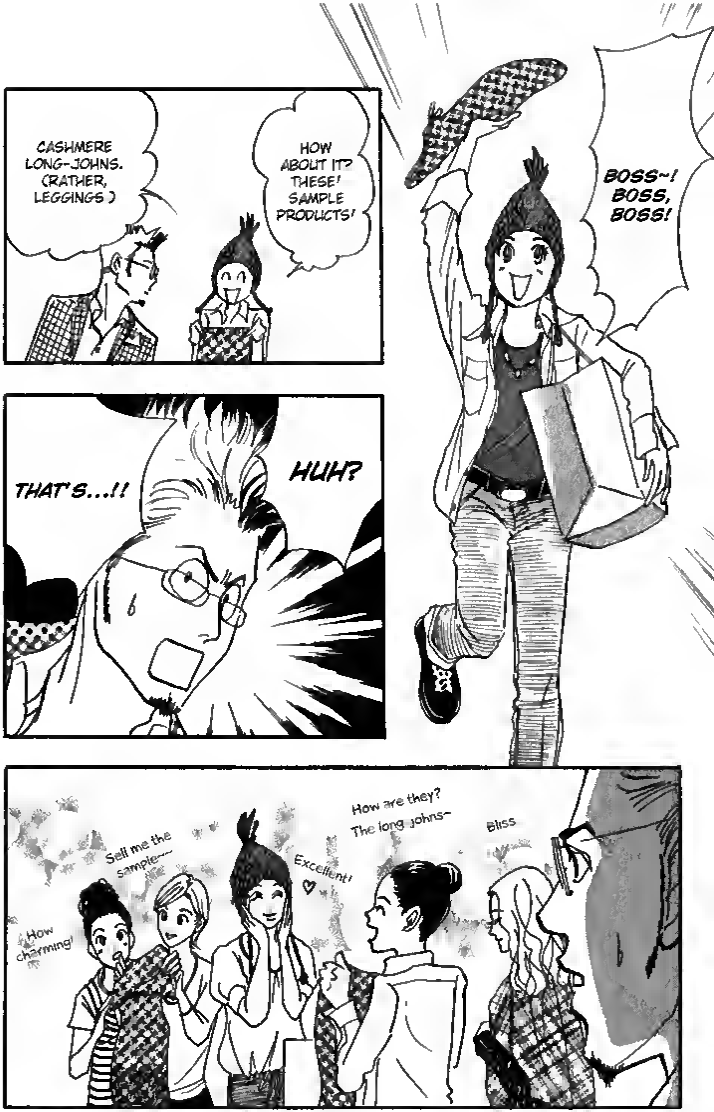


DID I THINK ABOUT TATSUYA.


WHAT HOLDS THE STRONG APPEAL OF NOSTALGIA IN FUTABA-SAN'S KNITS
IS THAT FUTABA-SAN HIMSELF HAS PRECIOUS CHILDHOOD FEELINGS, WHICH HE TREASURES EVEN NOW ..
BECAUSE HE IS LIVING WITH PURE FEELINGS...
ARE FEELINGS OF NOSTALGIA A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR ADULTS? A MARK THAT I'VE GROWN UP A BIT?
A SWEET-YET-BITTERSWEET EMOTION THAT ONLY ADULTS ARE ABLE TO TASTE

WHAT IS THIS?
A HAT AND GLOVES, ATTACHED BY STRING
INDOOR SLIPPERS.
ALL HAND-KNIT, OF COURSE
THE HEIGHT OF LUXURY, ALL MADE WITH IRREPROACHABLE CASHMERE
IF YOU MAKE DOLLS WITH THESE GLOVES, THEN— LOOK— IT'S A FACE!
A LITTLE MORE, FUTABA-SAN!
HOW CUTE—
GRIN!
doggie
bunny

IGNORE!
BUT I WON'T!!
JUST ONE MORE BREATH!
A SOLID CHOICE.
TABUCHI-SAN.
OH!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
HM
YOU'VE IMPROVED.
AH~
KOUJIROU WILL GO TO MILANO.
YES, SIR

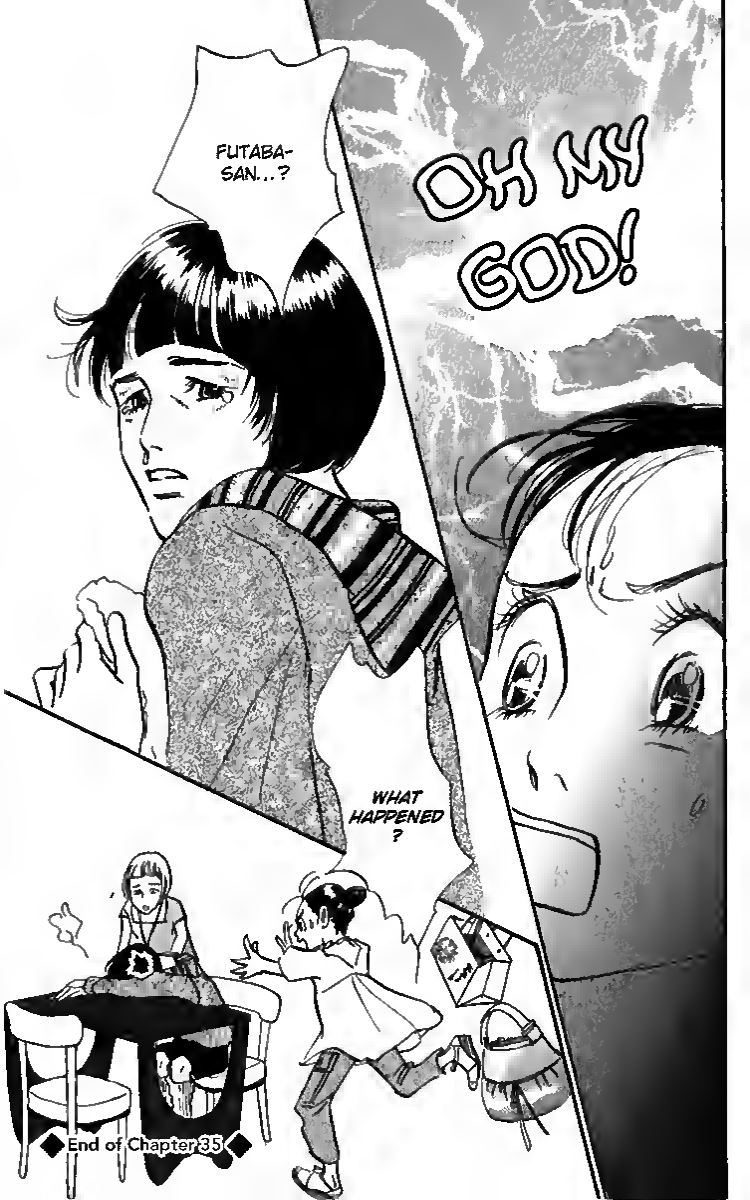

CASHMERE LONG-JOHNS. (RATHER, LEGGINGS)
HOW ABOUT IT? THESE! SAMPLE PRODUCTS!
BOSS~! BOSS, BOSS!
THAT'S...!!
HUH?
How charming!
Sell me the sample~
Excellent!
How are they? The long johns~
Bliss

EAU DE COLOGNE, A FRAGRANCE OF CASHMERE
A SIMPLE GREEN NOTE WITH A SMIDGE OF SCENT OF ANIMAL FUR IN IT
AND THEN THERE'S THIS!
Hippo
SNIFF
NOSTALGIA!
IT'S HIPPO ESSENCE'S KEYWORD

MM...
YOU'VE IMPROVED

I HAVEN'T DONE ANY "IMPROVING"— AT ALL!!
FUCK!
KICK!

FUTABA-SAN IS GOOD BECAUSE HE'S AN ORIGINAL THROUGH SELF-STUDY!!
TODAY IS JUST BARELY BEFORE THE DAY OF THE DEADLINE!
THE DESIGNS HAVE BEEN SQUEEZED OUT OF HIM.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE GO AHEAD FROM FUTABA-SAN.
GOOD MORNING.
GAH—!
6
THE
WED
THU
3
4
5
10
11
12
17
18
19
26



End of Chapter 35

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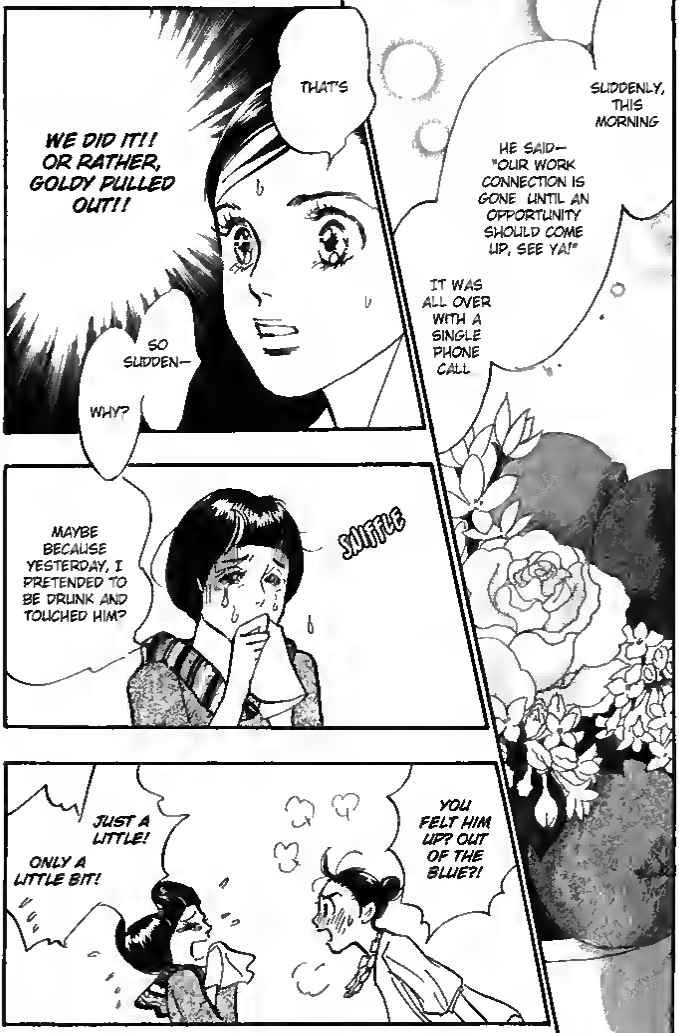
QC by : Maris

Real Clothes

by Nakamura Satoru

Real Clothes
Chapter 36

UW
UW AAH ~!!!
WHAT HAPPENED— IS HE SICK?!
click!
WAAAHHH...
WAAAHH
AAAAH!
A BROKEN HEART?!


WE DID IT!! OR RATHER, GOLDY PULLED OUT!!
THAT'S
SO SUDDEN—
WHY?
SUDDENLY, THIS MORNING
HE SAID— "OUR WORK CONNECTION IS GONE UNTIL AN OPPORTUNITY SHOULD COME UP, SEE YA!"
IT WAS ALL OVER WITH A SINGLE PHONE CALL
MAYBE BECAUSE YESTERDAY, I PRETENDED TO BE DRUNK AND TOUCHED HIM?
SNIFFLE
JUST A LITTLE!
ONLY A LITTLE BIT!
YOU FELT HIM UP? OUT OF THE BLUE?!

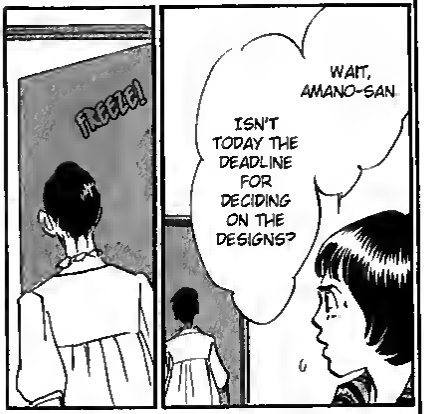
AHH, BUT THEN, WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S ONE-SIDED OR MUTUAL.
THEN IT WAS STILL JUST ONE-SIDED?!
IT'S... IT'S NOT AS IF THEY WERE DATING—
I'M...! ALL ALONE AGAIN...!
HIC!
SOB!
ZI
NGS

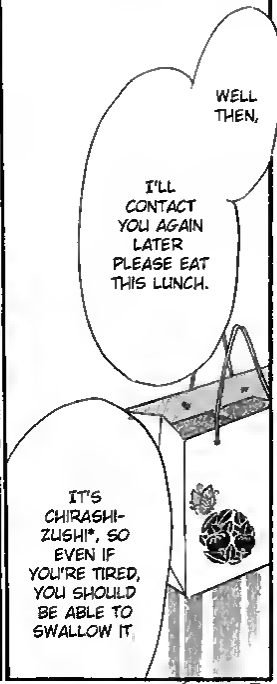
TEAR UP
MY CHEST HURTS
THE MOMENT I REALIZED I HAD LOST HIM, IT HURT, AND
..THAT I LOVED HIM THIS MUCH IS SOMETHING ..!
A BETTER GUY WILL COME ALONG!

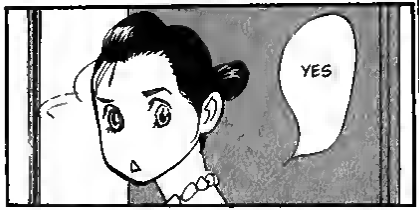
YOU'LL BE TOGETHER, AND IT WILL BE AS NATURAL AS BREATHING.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LAUGH AND TO CRY TOGETHER.
SOMEONE WHO WILL STICK BY YOU!
FOR SURE!
FOR ME TOO!!
FOR SURE!!
UW-WHAAAAN!

(*T/N Chirashizushi is a sushi inspired dish of white rice topped typically with raw fish.)

Real Clothes 5




WELL THEN,
I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN LATER PLEASE EAT THIS LUNCH.
IT'S CHIRASHI-ZUSHI*, SO EVEN IF YOU'RE TIRED, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SWALLOW IT



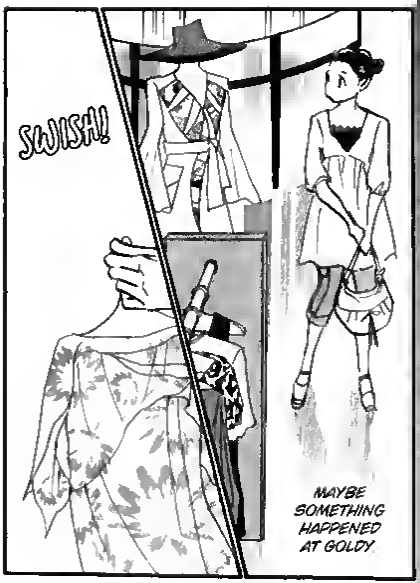
THEN ALL THE DESIGNS HAVE BEEN FINALIZED?!
FUTABA-SAN GAVE THE GO AND SIGNED FOR IT?!
I UNDER-STAND.
SHALL WE PLACE AN ORDER FOR THE SAMPLES?
SURE— I'M HEADING OUT TO THE FACTORY IMMEDIATELY, SO I'LL DO IT— ESPECIALLY SINCE FUTABA-SAN HAS SOME DETAILED DIRECTIONS.
I'LL ALSO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP TOMORROW!
ROGER THAT.
YOU WORKED REALLY HARD, AMANO-SAN.

CLICK!
I
I
I

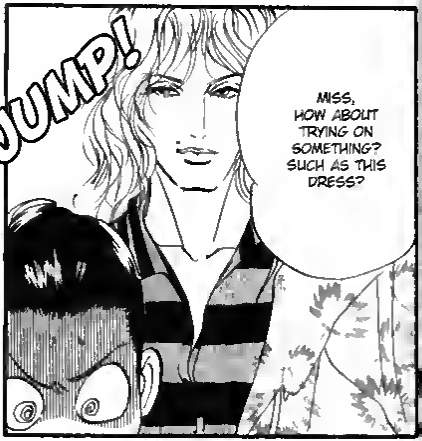
I DID IT——!!!
AFTER THIS COMES SELLING IT!! AND MAKING POSTERS AND SENDING OUT THE DIRECT MARKETING.
AH~. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE INSTANTLY SELL OUT?!

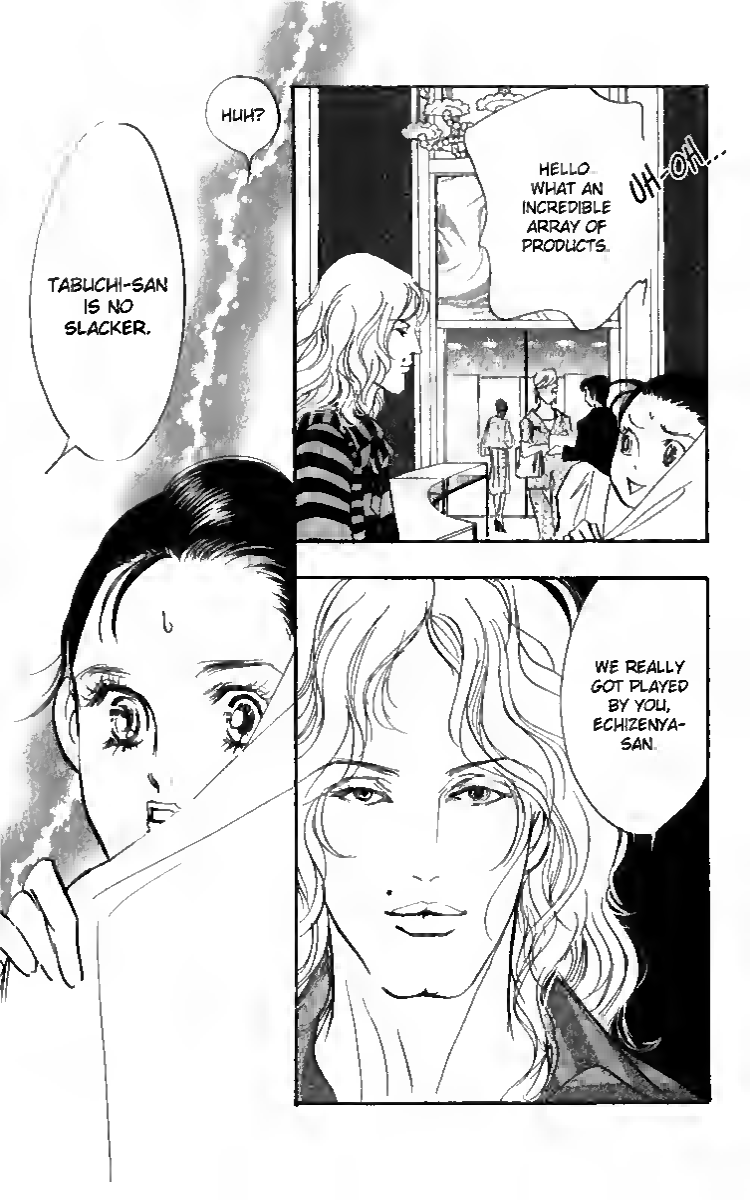
Real Clothes 5

I WONDER WHY GOLDY SUDDENLY WITHDREW...
...OR RATHER, THAT HACHIYA JERK.
PAUSE
IF IT WERE ME, I'D PRETEND TO BE INTERESTED
It's my job!
AND I'D BEAR WITH IT UNTIL I'D SECURED A CONTRACT.
BEAR WITH IT.
Hmm
Could I? Me!


SWISH!
MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED AT GOLDY

GOLDY


JUMP!
MISS, HOW ABOUT TRYING ON SOMETHING? SUCH AS THIS DRESS?


HUH?
TABUCHI-SAN IS NO SLACKER.
HELLO WHAT AN INCREDIBLE ARRAY OF PRODUCTS.
UH-OH...
WE REALLY GOT PLAYED BY YOU, ECHIZENYA-SAN.

THE DESIGNER FOR CASHMERE DETOX (TEMP NAME) HAS BEEN CHANGED BACK TO FUTABA KIMIHIKO?
YES, MA'AM.
IS THAT SO... APOLOGIZE PROPERLY TO SUZUKI-SAN
YES, MA'AM
IS HIS ILLNESS ALRIGHT?
YES.

IN ORDER TO CURE FUTABA-SAN'S ILLNESS,
I HAD TO USE A LITTLE "INTERFERENCE." IT TOOK SOME EXCESS SPENDING.
"INTER-FERENCE"?
ONE MORNING, ALL OF A SUDDEN,
THAT OBSESSIVE GUY DID SOMETHING WITH ALL THE POWER HE HAD
OUR MANAGER SAID THAT ONE BRAND AFTER ANOTHER WAS PULLING OUT OF GOLDY.

DO WE WANT THESE DRESSES, OR DO WE WANT FUTABA-SAN?
WHICH ONE IS A GAIN AND WHICH ONE IS A LOSS?
AND IT'S MY JOB TO CONSIDER IT ALL WITH A COOL HEAD.

POUND!
TABUCHI-SAN PUT THE PRESSURE ON.
WHAT WAS THE LOGIC BEHIND TAKING SUCH A RISK?
POUND!
POUND!

CONSIDERATION FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR COMPANY.
I JUDGED THAT EVEN IN TAKING THE RISK, STOCKING PRODUCTS WITH A GREATER APPEAL WOULD CONNECT US BETTER TO A PROFITABLE GAIN.

I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE
I UNDER-STAND
I'M SINKING...
SO HEAVY—

IT'S LIKE BEING
CRUSHED—

THE TRUTH IS, I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, IT WAS ALL DECIDED AT A HIGHER LEVEL.
WELCOME BACK! IT'S A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR YOU.
YOU DID WELL.
OH!
I'M LEAVING THE TRIPS TO THE FACTORY TO YOU.

End of Chapter 36

Real Clothes

by Nakimura Satora

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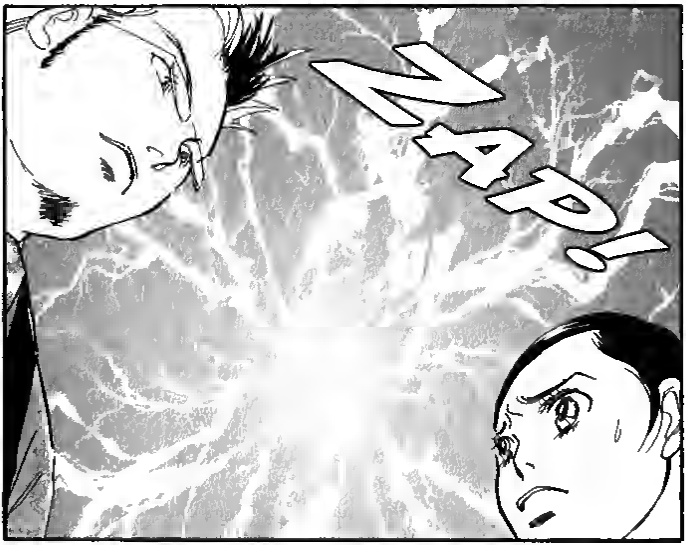
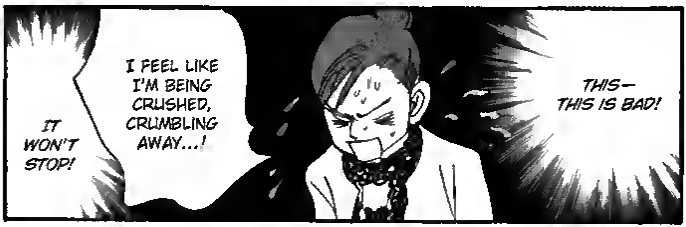
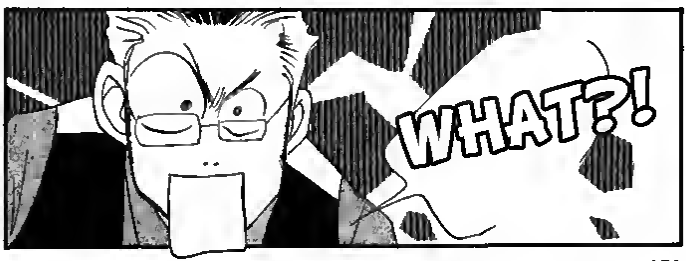
Chapter 37

YOU DID A GREAT JOB! TELL ME WHAT YOU WANNA EAT.
HIGH-CLASS JAPANESE CUISINE!!
BUT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO DID IT.
DON'T LET THEM TAKE YOU LIGHTLY AT THE FACTORY. GO IN WITH GUNS BLAZING!
TAKING ME LIGHTLY OR NOT—
DONE!

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO CONTRADICT MY SUPERVISOR. IT'S NOT LIKE TABUCHI-SAN HAS DENIED MY WAY OF DOING THINGS.
ON THE CONTRARY, AM I NOT BEING PRAISED?
HA!
WE'RE GOING TO STEADILY APPLY MORE PRESSURE.
Yamanaka-buchou Weakness
HA?
WIG
ALTHOUGH I SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO FOLLOW THINGS THROUGH, LIKE YOU, TABUCHI-SAN ..!


ZAP!


I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING CRUSHED, CRUMBLING AWAY...!
IT WON'T STOP!
THIS— THIS IS BAD!

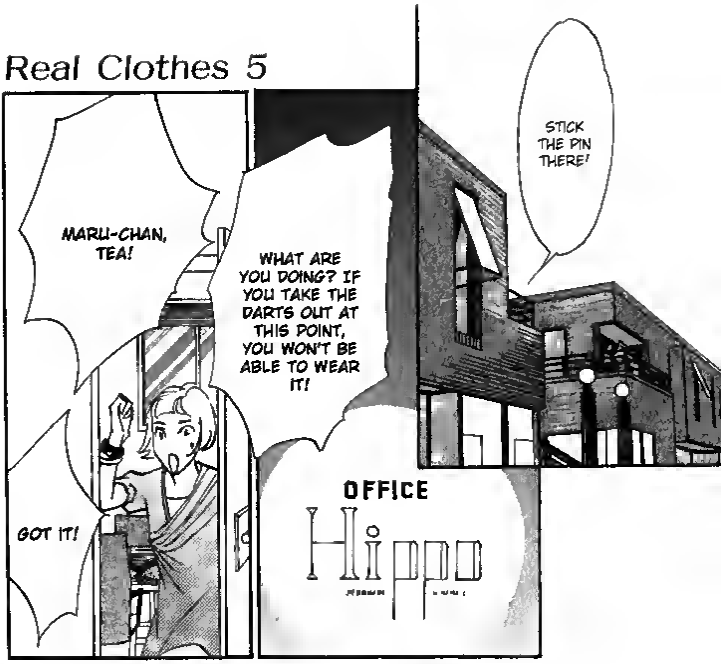

WHAT?!

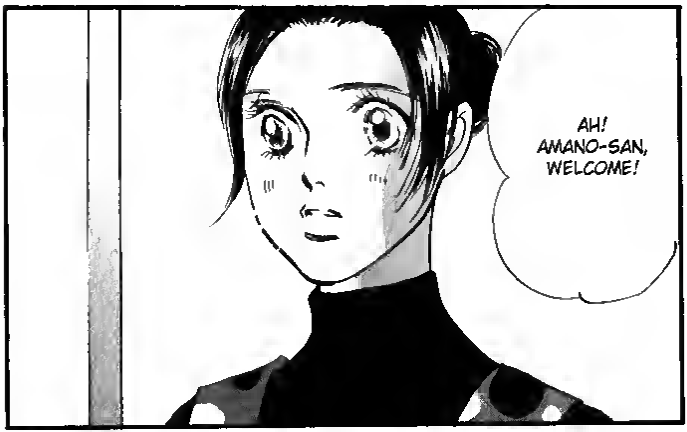
ABOUT WHAT?
IT IS A FACT THAT I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE ABILITY TO AFFECT THE SITUATION
"CRUMBLING AWAY"?
EVEN THOUGH IT ALL WENT SMOOTHLY?
You know
AND HERE I FELT LIKE "I DID MY JOB" AND I WAS CONGRATULATING MYSELF
IT!
IT'S SO... FRUSTRATING!
THAT I COULDN'T EVEN AFFECT FUTABA-SAN'S HEART BY MY POWER ALONE!!

A JOB AT A COMPANY—
IS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF YOUR OWN PERSONAL CATHARSIS!!
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER?
GAPE!
IT—
IT MAKES ME SICK... YOU COULD SAY.
GASP!
YES, SIR.

FOR THE COMP'NY! GIT 'ER DONE!
HMPH
GRR...!
AND YOU RESPOND WITH?
YES, SIR!
GOOD!

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
BUT SAYING THAT WON'T HELP YOU GROW.
AND BESIDES THAT?
YOU REALIZE THAT I GOT ON BOARD WITH YOUR IDEA, RIGHT?
I COOPERATED WITH YOU!
DO YOU GIVE ME ANY THANKS? THANK ME!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?


STICK THE PIN THERE!
MARU-CHAN, TEA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IF YOU TAKE THE DARTS OUT AT THIS POINT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WEAR IT!
GOT IT!
OFFICE
Hippo


AH! AMANO-SAN, WELCOME!

HOW ARE THINGS GOING AT THE FACTORY?
.....
RIGHT!
ALL THE "FUTABA CHECKS" HAVE BEEN STRICTLY ADHERED TO AND COMPLIED WITH.
HAVE THEY? GOOD WORK

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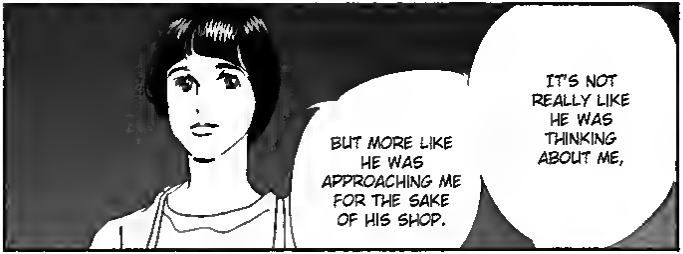
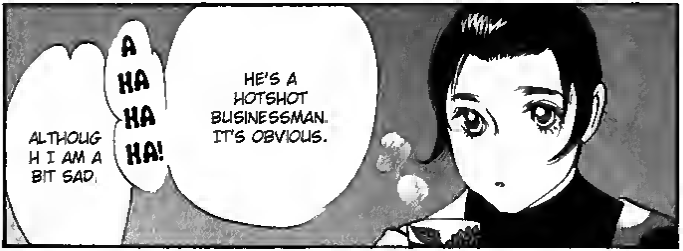
IF WE GIVE IN TO EVERY SINGLE LITTLE THING, OUR PRODUCTS WILL LOSE THEIR CHARM.
IT IS AS YOU SAY!
THEY WOULD BE TALKING OF COSTS AND LABOR AND ALL THAT.
YEAH.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE A FEW DEMANDS ON THE FACTORY-SIDE...
THE LIFELINE OF THIS COLLABORATION IS
HOW HIGH WE CAN RAISE THE PRESTIGE OF THE BRAND.
PLEASE TELL THEM FORCEFULLY THAT IT IS NOT A MATTER OF A LOW-COST STRATEGY FOR MASS PRODUCTION.

I'VE OPENED MY EYES.
HE'S SUCH A PROFESSIONAL!!
ABOUT HACHIYA-KUN ...
I WILL!

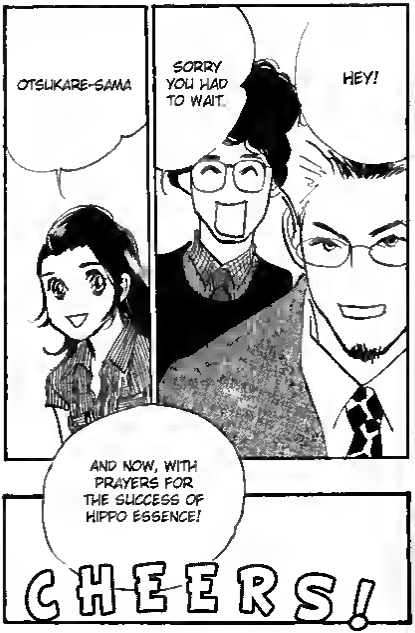

IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE HE WAS THINKING ABOUT ME,
BUT MORE LIKE HE WAS APPROACHING ME FOR THE SAKE OF HIS SHOP.


HE'S A HOTSHOT BUSINESSMAN. IT'S OBVIOUS.
A HA HA HA!
ALTHOUGH I AM A BIT SAD.

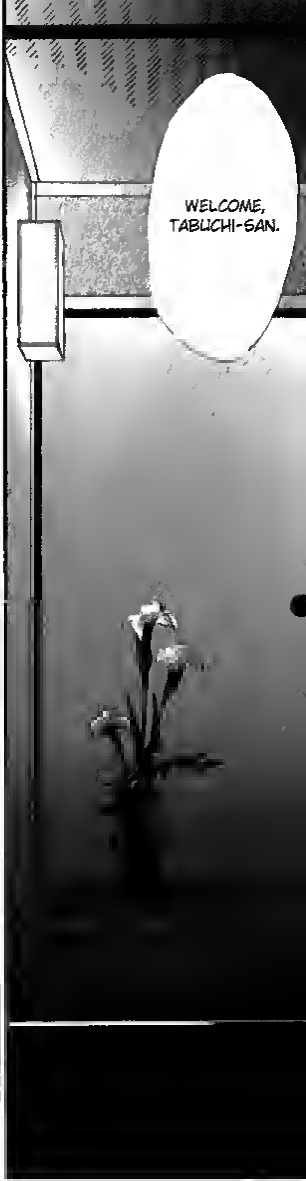
FORGIVE ME.

Yummy~♡
I FEEL LIKE I PLAYED A ROLE IN SHATTERING YOUR LOVE.

HUH?
SNORT
ISN'T SOMETHING THAT COMES BY WHEN THE TIMING IS RIGHT!
LOVE
YOU HAVE A BROKEN HEART TOO, DON'T YOU?!
EEK!
YOU TOO.
WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE, YOU HAVE TO GO FOR IT STEADILY ON YOUR OWN.
SPILL! WHAT WAS HE LIKE?!

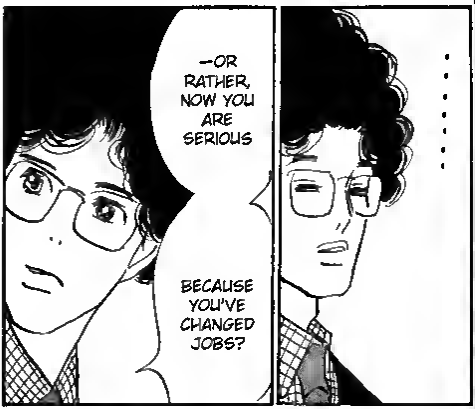

OTSUKARE-SAMA
SORRY YOU HAD TO WAIT.
HEY!
AND NOW, WITH PRAYERS FOR THE SUCCESS OF HIPPO ESSENCE!
CHEERS!

DELICIOUS~!


WELCOME, TABUCHI-SAN.

IN ORDER TO LIVE— TO EAT— I WAS A SUPERIOR SALESPERSON
SNORE...

I WONDER IF I'M NO LONGER A SERIOUS EMPLOYEE
AND YET, IT'S INCOMPR-EHENSIBLE TO THE ME I AM NOW
SNORE...

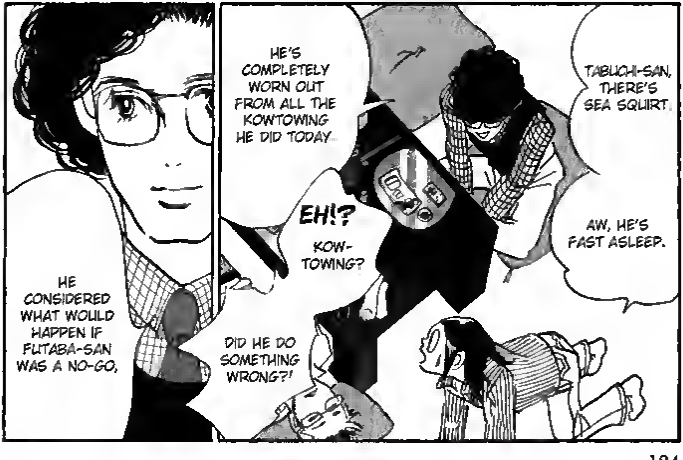

—OR RATHER, NOW YOU ARE SERIOUS
BECAUSE YOU'VE CHANGED JOBS?
.....

SNORE...

WHEN I WORKED IN THE FUTON DEPARTMENT,
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT MY OWN JOB OR HOW I DID IT.

IF YOU SEAL AWAY YOUR FEELINGS AND GIVE UP WITH A "THIS IS HOW IT IS," ATTITUDE, IT'LL BE A CAKE WALK
IF YOU LET YOURSELF GO WITH THE FLOW, THERE WILL BE NO CONFLICT.
DON'T YOU LOVE YOUR JOB MORE THAN BEFORE?
EXCUSE ME
Sibooook!

(*T/N: Sanriku is the northeastern area of the main island of Japan.)


HE'S COMPLETELY WORN OUT FROM ALL THE KOWTOWING HE DID TODAY.
TABUCHI-SAN, THERE'S SEA SQUIRT.
EH!?
KOW-TOWING?
AW, HE'S FAST ASLEEP.
HE CONSIDERED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF FUTABA-SAN WAS A NO-GO.
DID HE DO SOMETHING WRONG?!

AMANO-SAN.
WE ARE A TEAM.
THAT'S... I DIDN'T KNOW...
NATURALLY. WE COULD NOT ALLOW THE PROJECT TO SUFFER SETBACKS.
IF WE CAN GET GOOD RESULTS THROUGH THE WHOLE PROCESS, IT'S OKAY.
AND HAD REQUESTED DESIGNS FROM SUZUKI MAKOTO-SAN.
IT WAS A SAFETY NET FOR A POSSIBLE SCENARIO.
!

SNOOORRE...
TABUCHI-SAN...
BOWED DEEPLY.

I'M SO...
SORRY
WHOA!
RISE!
SEA—!
SEA SQUIRTS!
SQUIT SQUIT
WHAT?

◆ End of Chapter 37 ◆